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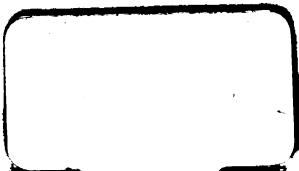
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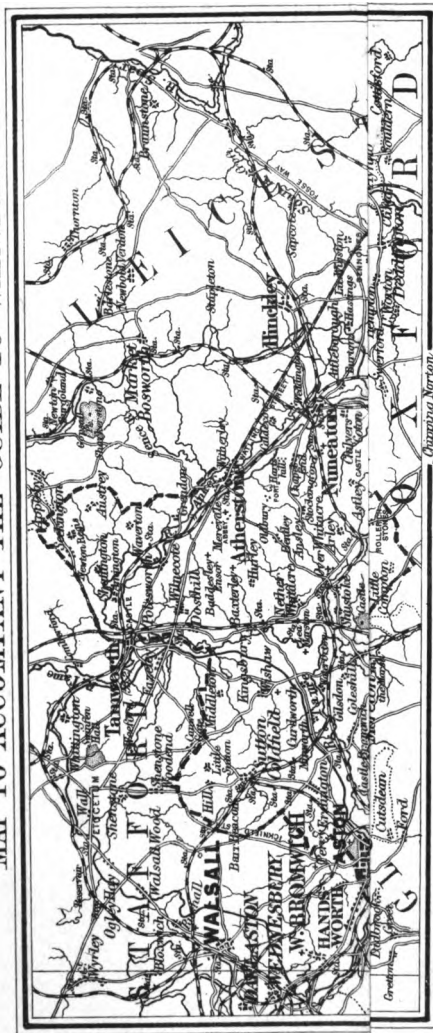
TOURIST'S GUIDE
TO
WARWICKSHIRE.

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MAP TO ACCOMPANY THE GUIDE TO WARWICK.



Scale of Statute Miles
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London: Edward Stanford, 55 Charing Cross.

Stanford's Geog. Handb.

TOURIST'S GUIDE
TO
WARWICKSHIRE.

BY
G. PHILLIPS BEVAN, F.G.S., F.S.S.

WITH MAP.

LONDON:
EDWARD STANFORD, 55, CHARING CROSS, S.W.
1882.

PREFACE.

A CHEAP and portable guide-book seems a fitting accompaniment to a cheap tour; and the Editor has endeavoured to produce one which shall fulfil this purpose, while it directs the attention of the traveller to all that is best worth seeing. Superfluous description has been avoided, the object of the work being merely to denote the leading points, and thus not to encumber the tourist with unnecessary remarks, which entail a more or less bulky volume.

1882.

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TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

WARWICKSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

WARWICKSHIRE, the centre and heart of English soil, is as typical a county as can be found anywhere. Whatever may be the taste of the visitor, he will find material of the highest interest everywhere awaiting him. The scenery is soft and tender, comprising shaded woodland, breezy downs, lanes and fields studded with flowers, graceful rivers and streams. The history of Warwickshire, so pregnant with the stirring events that go to make up the history of England, lives again in her antiquarian remains, her venerable castles and numberless relics of mediæval domestic life; while the student of to-day will find in the multifarious industries of the county ample stores of technical information, or will note the ever-changing problems of industrial life and politics. Few, if any, of the English counties are more representative than is Warwickshire, in which the past and present are ever in sharp juxtaposition, and in which the glories of the "good old times" offer such a contrast to the more prosaic and more restless life of the present day.

The county of Warwick, which ranks twenty-fourth in size, contains an area of 881 square miles, or 566,458 acres. It is surrounded by the counties of Stafford, Leicester, Northampton, Oxford, Gloucester, and Worcester, the two latter interchanging their borders constantly with Warwickshire, so that it would be hard for the tourist to say at a guess in which county he was standing. Many an English county has an outlying portion elsewhere, but nowhere is this disjointed condition carried to such an extent as in the S.W. of War-

wickshire. The physical features are not remarkable for any great variety of elevation, there being no mountains whatever in the county, and, with the exception of the northern spurs of the Cotswolds, few hills of any size. But it must not be assumed that the surface is flat, for it is almost everywhere undulating with a singular freedom from monotony. In the north, indeed, the scenery may be said to rise to an almost high order west of Sutton Coldfield, extending to Barr Beacon on the Staffordshire border, a district comprising the really wild and beautiful Sutton Park, a Birmingham lung which any capital might envy. A still more broken and beautiful bit of country is found to the W. of the Watling Street, between Atherstone and Nuneaton, equal to parts of Wales, though somewhat spoiled by the encroachments of collieries. It gradually dies out S. of Arley and Corley. South of these districts is the extensive wooded country known as Arden, which in early days was a dense forest, stretching from Coleshill on N. to Brandon, Coventry and the valley of the Avon, and on W. as far as the Worcestershire border. Indeed, the early topographers divided Warwickshire into the two districts of the Arden and the Feldon—the latter being the open and undulating agricultural country to the S. of Warwick and Southam. The term Arden, as applied to forest land, is seen also in the Ardennes; though its present aspect is so changed to what it must have appeared at the date at which Shakespeare wrote his 'As You Like It,' that one is almost tempted to imagine that the locality was intended rather for the Ardennes. The N.E. side of the county is occupied by a long stretch of high ground, passing from Leicestershire S. to Rugby, Dunchurch and Southam, in which occasional elevations make their appearance, such as Wormleighton and Napton Hills. On the western border, too, the country becomes prettily broken along the valley of the Avon, and a ridge of table-land stretches from Alcester to near Stratford-on-Avon. The extreme S. is very picturesque in many parts, particularly in the valley of the Stour about Easington, and that of the Dene at Wellesbourne. Separating Warwickshire from Oxfordshire is the conspicuous plateau of Edgehill, which as it runs S. becomes broken up and merges into the Cotswold escarpments.

As may be imagined from the character of the surface, the Warwickshire rivers are not remarkable for swiftness or rapidity, but are, on the contrary, slow, meditative streams, sometimes verging on the sluggish. The chief, viz. *the Warwickshire river*, is, of course, the Avon, which, rising at Naseby in the adjoining county of Northampton, enters Warwickshire near Rugby, receiving the Swift from Leicestershire, and flows past Brandon to Stoneleigh, where it is joined by the Sowe, which flows E. of Coventry, where it receives the Sherborne. At Leamington the Avon is reinforced by the Leam and its affluent, the Itchen, as Drayton sings:—

. . . . "Avon's winding streame
By Warwick entertaines the high complectioned Leame."

From Warwick it flows S.W. to Stratford, receiving the Dene at Charlecote, the Stour below Stratford, and the Arrow (combined with the Alne) below Bidford. It may safely be said that there is not a river in England which, in its short course from Stoneleigh to Bidford, offers so many subjects of the deepest interest as does the Avon. The North Warwickshire river system is far less picturesque, and seems as if destined to play its part more in commercial interests. The Tame rises a little to the S. of Birmingham, and receives, within short distances of each other, as it flows towards Tamworth, the Rea, the Cole, the Blythe and the Bourne, running through an interesting but comparatively flat country.

On the N.E. of the county there is a considerable tributary to the Tame, near Tamworth, in the Anker, which rises on the Leicestershire border, and flows past Atherstone and Polesworth—

"Ancor trifling staves
Unto the lustier Tame, as lothe to come her ways."

Of the *history* of Warwickshire very little need be said here, as the incidents appertaining to each place will be found there; and, moreover, so numerous were the events that happened in Warwickshire during the different wars and troubles of the Middle Ages, that a history of Warwickshire would be a microcosm of that of England.

The antiquities of the county are numerous and interesting, though principally in the direction of mediæval castles and churches. Of British and Roman remains there are comparatively few, and it is frequently difficult to dissociate the one class from the other, as the Romans were in the habit of utilising the works of their predecessors, wherever they found them ready to hand. Of the more purely British remains, examples are found at Nadbury Camp on Edge Hill, and those splendid monoliths, the Rollright stones, which are most probably of Druidic origin. Roman stations are rather plentiful, embracing those of Tripontium (near Rugby), Bennones (High Cross), Manduessedum (Mancetter), Secandunum (Seckington), Bremenium (Birmingham), and Alauna (Alcester), together with minor stations, such as camps or the *arx speculatoria*, as at Brinklow, Camp Hill, Chesterton, Wapenbury, Oldbury, Harborough Banks and Ipsley. Connecting all these places, we find three great Roman roads: 1. The Watling Street, which forms the boundary of a considerable portion of the Leicestershire side of the county under the guise of a modern turnpike road, and passes through Tripontium, Vennones, Manduessedum and Secandunum, on its way to Etocetum (Wall, near Lichfield). 2. The Foss Way bisects the county and the Watling Street at right angles, on its way from the W. of England to Lincoln, running in a perfectly straight line from Easington to Chesterton, Brinklow, Stretton-on-the-Foss and Leicester, intersecting the Watling Street at High Cross (Vennones). 3. The Ickneild Street enters the county near Bidford, and runs due N. through Alauna and past Ipsley Camp to Bremenium. Of Saxon date we may consider the "lows," such as Knightlow, Motlow, Blacklow, &c., which although undoubtedly natural elevations, were the scenes of certain Saxon rites and ceremonies, probably marked by a pillar or cross. Saxon building traces are observable on the mound of Warwick Castle, the curtain wall of Tamworth Castle and in Loxley ch.: while some of the moats and entrenchments round the old mansions are believed to be of Saxon date. Norman architecture is plentiful, and is seen in the following churches, in company usually with other and later styles, for it must be understood that in very few cases indeed is a ch. found to be

of one style, without alterations or additions of later date: Wolston, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Wyken, Berkswell, Hampton-in-Arden, Bickenhill, Merevale (the old Priory Gate), Fenny Compton, Lillington, Cubbington, Curdworth, Ansley, Tamworth, Kenilworth, Stoneleigh, Wixford, Arrow, Bidford, Beaudesert, Preston Bagot, Butlers Marston, Warmington, Burton Dassett, Whatcote, Idlicote, Oxhill, Tysoe, Barton-on-the-Heath and Sutton-under-Brailes, as also in the ruins of Maxstoke Priory, Brandon Castle, Hartshill Castle, Kenilworth Castle, and the inhabited buildings of Warwick Castle, Combe and Stoneleigh Abbeys. Of Early English churches, the principal are Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Browns-over, Baginton, Wapenbury, Offchurch, Harbury, Aston, St. Martin's (Birmingham), Sutton Coldfield, Water Orton, Aston Cantlow, Norton Lindsay, Stratford-on-Avon, Sherborne, Napton, Whichford, Barcheston, Chadshunt, Kineton and Barmington. The chief churches of Decorated date are Rugby, Bilton, Dunchurch, Christchurch (Coventry), Allesley, Alcester, Monks Kirby, Marton, Ratley, Polesworth, Grendon, Packwood, Temple Balsall, Fillongley, Corley, Astley, Coleshill, Austrey, Newton Regis, Salford Priors, Wolverton, Charlecote, Grandborough, Priors Hardwick, Atherstone-on-Stour, and Cherrington. Churches of Perpendicular date abound in Warwickshire, and many of them rank amongst the finest examples in the kingdom. Of these may be mentioned the Beauchamp Chapel at St. Mary's, Warwick, the churches of Newbold-on-Avon, St. Michael's, Holy Trinity and St. John's at Coventry, Brinklow, Withybrook, Chesterton, Leamington, Hatton, Wooton Wawen, Knowle, Solihull, Coughton, Stratford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Lapworth and Brailes; while Alcester and Baddesley Clinton are specimens of debased style. The churches of Newton Regis, Polesworth, Hillmorton and Cherrington are notable for their curious effigies, Rowington and Barmington for their stone pulpits. In domestic remains, Warwickshire is peculiarly rich, both in the old-fashioned street architecture of towns like Coventry and Warwick, and in the isolated country grange. Of the former class are the gateways, St. Mary's Hall, Ford's and Bablake Hospitals and the Grammar School in Coventry, the Leycester Hospital and Okin's house in Warwick, Shakespeare's house and the Grammar

School in Stratford-on-Avon; while of the latter may be mentioned the old houses of Kinghurst, Blakesley Hall, Packwood Hall, Baddesley Clinton Hall, Hillfield, Ravenshaw, Berry Hall, Whorley Hall, Henwood Hall, Temple Balsall Hospital, the Old Crown House at Birmingham, Sheldon Hall, Peddymore Hall, New Hall, Astley Castle, Maxstoke Castle, Kingsbury, Charlecote Hall, Botley Hall, Swanhurst, Bushwood Hall, and Compton Winyate.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Geology.—Warwickshire contains a comparatively monotonous series of formations, and in this respect the geology does not offer the variety that is found in many English counties. Nevertheless, the palæontology, though limited, is of the deepest interest, some of the fossil remains being almost unique as far as England is concerned. Warwickshire is occupied almost entirely by the Liassic, Upper and Lower Triassic, Permian, and Carboniferous formations, together with a few igneous intrusions, whilst in the extreme south the Inferior Oolite of the Cotswold ranges just impinges upon the border. Between Nuneaton and Merevale the Carboniferous rocks show an abrupt ridge of an average height of 500 ft., the N.E. being bounded by a fault, beyond which the New Red Marl extends towards Leicester, and the escarpment of the Lias between that town and Rugby. On the W., the Carboniferous and Permian rocks form rising ground sloping westward, and this side too is bounded by a fault, beyond which the New Red extends to Birmingham. The Permian, which is very largely developed in Warwickshire, commences on S. at Leek Wootton, runs up to Kenilworth and Berkswell, and thence by Maxstoke to a little above Whitacre. At Baddeley Ensor it turns S.E. to Stockingford and Bedworth, thence by Foleshill to Gosford Green (close to Coventry), Stoneleigh and Ashow, back to Leek Wootton.

The Warwickshire coalfield occupies a long narrow strip of country, commencing south, near Hawkesbury, and stretching N.E. to Baddeley Ensor. This southern portion is only from one to two miles broad, but at

Baddeley Ensor it suddenly widens to about four miles, extending N. through Polesworth as far as Seckington. This tract, with an area of 90 square miles, is underlaid by coal at a depth probably not greater than 2500 ft. in any part, often much less. At the S. end of the coal-field the whole of the Coal Measures are overlapped by the New Red Sandstone, which passes across the edges of the beds and rests upon the Permian rocks. The prolongation of the seams under the Trias has been proved as far S. as Wyken Colliery, about 2 miles N.E. of Coventry.

There is a bed of Limestone with *Spirorbis carbonarius* at Sybil House, near Kingsbury, and at Arley and Ansley, where a fault brings the coal to the surface in a small detached area, and a little S. of this, a mass of calcareous conglomerate forms a marked horizon, about the middle of the Permian beds, which at Corley rise to 625 ft.

The Millstone Grit is developed between Nuneaton and Atherstone to the W. It is traversed by two trap dykes, which may be seen in actual contact with the grit—in a quarry at Tuttle Hill, close to Nuneaton, and also at Hartshill, where the grit is largely extracted for road metal.

The New Red or Triassic formation consists of pebble beds of the Bunter series, together with the Bunter Upper Red and Mottled Sandstone. There is only a small area of this, principally between Polesworth and Grendon. The Lower Keuper sandstone skirts the Permian on the E. from Warwick to Nuneaton, and again from Grendon to Austrey, and on the W. from Kenilworth to Maxstoke. To this succeeds the New Red Marl. These subdivisions, however, are not very constant, but thin away rapidly from E. to W. Overlying the Keuper Marls conformably is the Lower Lias, a long escarpment of which is seen commencing at Long Itchington, running N.E. to Harborough Magna. The boundary between the Keuper Marls and the Lower Lias is well seen between Long Itchington and Stretton on Dunsmore. There are also two outliers of Lower Lias—one at Knowle, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile broad—and one at Moreton Bagot. The Lower Lias in the S.W. corner of the county is of especial interest from its fossil remains.

The palæontology of the county comprises, amongst others, the following fossils:—

Coal Measures.—Ferns, *Pecopteris*, *Neuropteris*, &c.; *Spirorbis carbonarius*: Sybil Hill; Ansley; Exhall.

Permian.—The pebbles from the conglomerate series contain *Atrypa hemisphærica*. There are also found here *Calamites* and *Lepidodendron*, *Strophosia*, *Allesley*; silicified trees of *Caulerpites oblonga* and *C. biangularis*, also *Breea entassoides*, at Meriden; *Labyrinthodon Bucklandi*, Kenilworth. (This was formerly believed to be Triassic, but is now known as a true Permian fossil.)

Triassic (Keuper).—*Estheria minuta*, Rowington; *Labyrinthodon giganteus*, *L. leptognathus*, *L. pachygnathus*, *L. scutulatus*, *L. ventricosus*, Warwick, Leek Wootton, Cubbington, Guy's Cliff, Leamington, and Coton End; *Labyrinthodon leptognathus*, Shrewley Common. *Thecodontosaurus*, Leamington; *Rhyncosaurus*, Grinsill; *Cladododon Lloydii*, Coton End; Fish jaws, Coventry.

L. Lias.—*Æchmodus angulifer*, *Ichthyosaurus tenuirostris*, *I. intermedius*, *I. communis*, Stratford-on-Avon. Insect remains, viz. *Orthophlebia*, *Æchna*, Binton; *Ephemera*, *Chauliodes*, *Myrmeleon*, Libellulideous wings, Bidford; *Carabidæ*, *Gryllidæ*, *Telephonidæ*, Temple Grafton, Wilmcote, Copt Heath, and Knowle.

BOTANY.

Warwickshire is a happy hunting-ground for the botanist, not so much, perhaps, for its rare specimens, as for its general and typical yield. Botany is now such a favourite study, that a brief list of the plants most commonly found will not be out of place.

Galium Anglicum; *Senecio squalidus*; *Pulicaria vulgaris*; *P. dysenterica*, Marston Green; *Physalis Alkekengi*, Foleshill; *Empetrum nigrum*, Sutton Park; *Crocus nudiflorus*, Warwick; *Cynoglossum sylvaticum*, *Leucojum æstivum*, Stratford; *Mœnchia erecta*, Yarningale Common; *Convallaria majalis*, Hay Wood; *Lythrum salicaria*, Studley, Coughton; *Hieracium Pilosella*, *Erica cinerea*, *E. tetralix*, *Vaccinium Vitis-idaea*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Lastrea spinulosa*, *L. Thelypteris*, *L. Oreopteris*, *L. Filix-mas*, *L. dilatata*, Sutton Park; *Sanguisorba officinalis*, Budbrook; *Spiræa filipendula*, Burton Dassett; *Nuphar lutea*, banks of Avon; *Apium graveolens*, Bishopston; *Carex distans*, Morton Morrell, Southam; *C. paludosa*, Warwick; *C. præcox*, Sutton Park; *C.*

pilulifera, Yarningale, Sutton Park; *Scirpus tabernæmontanus*, Grandborough, Southam, Holt; *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Sanicula Europæa*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Sutton Park; *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Kenilworth, Marston Green; *Bidens cernua*, Olton; *Rosa spinosissima*, Snitterfield, Hatton, Tachbrook; *Arundo Phragmites*, *A. calamagrostis*, Olton Pool; *Lycopus arvensis*, *L. Europæus*, Elmdon, Knowle; *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, Marston Green; *Aira caryophyllea*, Yarningale; *Sagina nodosa*, *Melyanthes trifoliata*, Sutton Park; *Scutellaria galericulata*, Hampton, Knowle; *S. minor*, *Iris Pseudacorus*, *Nymphæa alba*, Coleshill Pool; *Campanula latifolia*, Warwick, Hill Wootton, Knowle; *Vinca minor*, Harborne; *Butomus umbellatus*, Olton and Warwick; *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Olton; *Melampyrum pratense*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Orchis maculata*, *Jasione montana*, Sutton Park; *Dipsacus sylvestris*, Yarningale; *Polystichum aculeatum*, *P. angulosum*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *A. Ruta-muraria*, *A. Adiantum-nigrum*, *Scolopendrium vulgare*, Sutton Park; *Narthecium ossifragum*, Coleshill Pool.

Warwickshire plants and flowers derive an interest or sentiment, apart from mere botanical knowledge, on account of the frequency with which her poets have introduced them into their works. Shakespeare was a keen observer of Nature, and he lost no opportunity of associating with his writings the flowers with which he was so familiar in his native county. The poet Drayton had also the same taste, and his works, especially the 'Polyolbion,' teem with allusions to the common Warwickshire plants and herbs.

INDUSTRIES.

As the county of Warwick is typical in scenery, tastes and associations, so is it also in industrial progress, containing, more or less, examples of most of the English industries. Coal-mining is briskly carried on in the districts between Coventry, Nuneaton, Atherstone and Tamworth, there being in the coal-field 32 collieries, producing in 1880 nearly 1,200,000 tons. The localities where coal-mining is chiefly prevalent are Bedworth, Wyken, Exhall, Griff, Chilvers Coton,

Nuneaton, Stockingford, Ansley, Hartshill, Polesworth, Fazeley and Wilnecote. Argillaceous iron ore is also raised (36,972 tons in 1880), but there is no iron trade, properly so called, with the exception of the manufactured iron foundries in Birmingham and its neighbourhood, all the ore being sent into the Black Country. Nor does Warwickshire possess any metalliferous mines, though manganese used to be freely worked in the Nuneaton and Hartshill district. Textiles are pretty largely produced, although only of a certain character. Cotton-spinning is a Nuneaton industry, but beyond this the whole of the Warwickshire textile trade is devoted to ribbons and elastic web, of which Coventry, Nuneaton, Atherstone and the surrounding villages are the chief seats. It is in manufactured metals, commonly known as hardware, that Warwickshire is *facile princeps*, Birmingham being the metropolis of these trades, not only for England, but for all the world. A brief *résumé* of the specialities of Birmingham is given in the description of that town, and those who are interested in further studying the subject are recommended to obtain Mr. Timmins's interesting work on the 'Midland Industries.'

Communications.—The county is fairly provided with railways, to which the three great companies, viz. the Great Western, London and North Western and Midland contribute. From Rugby to Tamworth, the Trent Valley line (L.N.W.) forms the highroad from London to Ireland, Scotland and the North, and is traversed by ceaseless relays of expresses. The other branches from the Rugby centre are to Coventry and Birmingham, Leamington, Market Harborough, Northampton, while the local branches are those from Leamington to Coventry and Nuneaton, and from Birmingham to Sutton Coldfield. The Great Western accommodates the south and western parts of the county, entering it near Fenny Compton and running diagonally to Leamington, Warwick, and Birmingham, an important connection between this part of the system and the West Midland portion being maintained by a cross line from Hatton to Bearley (Alcester), Stratford-on-Avon, and Honeybourne. The Midland company is found in all parts except the south. On the N.E. border, a section runs from Rugby to Leicester; on the west, from Evesham

to Alcester, Redditch, and Birmingham, while the N. portion contains several branches, viz., from Birmingham to Tamworth (the route for Derby), to Sutton Coldfield and Walsall; to Nuneaton and Leicester. South Warwickshire is not well off for railways, which is not surprising, as it has none but agricultural industries, though, if the East and West Junction Railway, already open from Broom to Stratford and completed to Kineton and Fenny Compton, was utilised for passenger traffic, this part of the county would have no reason to be discontented. The tourist in Warwickshire should, indeed, be the last to complain of being unable to find a railway to convey him, for there is no county in England that possesses such beautiful roads, and whether bicycling, riding, or walking, he has a perpetual succession of exquisite vistas along the wooded and turf-lined avenues which do duty for Warwickshire turnpike roads. This is more especially the case in the region of the Arden, to which it is almost worth while to make a journey, if only for the walk from Coventry to Leamington.

Divisions and Population.—Warwickshire is divided into the two parliamentary districts of North and South, each returning two M.P.'s, while the boroughs are Warwick (2), Birmingham (3), Tamworth (2), Coventry (2). There are four hundreds, viz. Knightlow (E.), Barlingway (W.), Hemlingford (N.), and Kineton (S.) The county has 13 unions, 11 county court districts, and 6 municipal boroughs, viz. Birmingham, Coventry, Stratford, Leamington, Tamworth, and Warwick. The population of the county, according to the census of 1881, was 737,188, being an increase of 102,999 over that of 1871, which was 634,189. A large proportion of this increase is naturally attributable to Birmingham. The following table will show the population of the principal towns :—

	1881.	1871.	Increase.	Decrease.
Birmingham	400,757	343,787	56,970	
Coventry	42,111	39,474	2,637	
Leamington	22,976	20,910	2,066	
Nuneaton	8,465	7,399	1,066	
Rugby	9,890	8,385	1,505	
Stratford-on-Avon	8,053			
Tamworth	4,888	4,589	299	
Warwick	11,802	10,986	816	

RAILWAY EXCURSIONS.

I. WEEDON TO RUGBY, COVENTRY AND BIRMINGHAM [L.N.W.].

The traveller from Euston to the Midlands will have no cause to regret the route that he has selected in the rapid and comfortable train service of the London and North-Western Railway. Passing through the successive counties of Middlesex, Herts, Bucks, and Northampton, he arrives at Weedon, at one time a great military centre, and still retaining its barracks. The line shortly enters the Kilsby Tunnel, 1½m. long, and lighted by four huge shafts. Within a mile of the other end is the boundary of the county of Warwick, near (1.) the village of Hillmorton. The ch. has nave, aisles and a square tower. The interior contains mons. of the Astley family, Thomas de Astley and his mother Edith, t. Henry III. In a niche in the N. wall is a recumbent figure of a priest in his robes, as worn during the celebration of the eucharistic service. There is also a brass of a lady, 1410. Hillmorton Manor (T. C. Bucknill).

83. RUGBY STATION. [*Refreshment Rooms. Fares from Euston 12s. 9d.; 9s. 10d.; 7s. 2d. Junction with L.N.W. branches to Market Harboro' and Peterboro'; to Northampton; to Tamworth and Stafford (Trent Valley); to Leamington; Midland Rly. to Leicester. Distances: London, 83m.; Coventry, 12m.; Birmingham, 30m.; Tamworth, 27m.; Stafford, 50m.; Nuneaton, 11m.; Stamford, 41m.; Leamington, 15m.; Leicester, 20m.*]

This is one of the busiest and largest railway centres in the kingdom, through which passes most of the North of England, Scotch and Irish traffic to London, and a mighty amount of goods and coal traffic. As "Mugby Junction" it was the subject of a Christmas number of the late Charles Dickens's periodical. Considerable alterations and improvements are in contemplation, and, it must be admitted, not before they are wanted, for Rugby station has always been remarkably

unfinished and uncomfortable. On rising ground 1 m. to the S. lies the town of

Rugby [*Hotel: George. Pop. 9890. Distances: Dun-church, 4m.; Hillmorton, 2½m.; Bilton, 2m.; Southam, 12m.; Newbold-on-Avon, 2m.; Brownsover, 1½m.; Clifton, 2½m.*].—a name dear to generations of English school-boys. But independently of its celebrated school, Rugby has a respectable antiquity, being called in Domesday Book "*Rocheberie*," although in Queen Elizabeth's time it was commonly known as *Rokebie*. It was made, too, into a distinct parish in Henry III.'s reign, previous to which it had been merely a chapel of ease to the mother-church of Clifton-on-Dunsmore. Beyond the tradition that Oliver Cromwell once quartered his troops here, and that some traces of a castle or castellated tower were found near the ch., the history of Rugby has been of the quietest. Of late years the ch. itself has undergone great transformation at the hands of *Mr. Butterfield*; the nave of the old building now forms the north aisle, called the *Moultrie aisle*, in memory of the late vicar. It is of Dec. date, and consists of chancel, nave, with two north and one south aisle, transepts, and a tower at the W. end. This tower is of great interest, square, lofty and plain, without the support of a single buttress. The lower windows are very narrow and some distance from the ground—being, in point of fact, mere loopholes. The belfry windows are square-headed, of two lights, trefoiled in the head, and divided by a plain mullion. The only entrance was through the church. Inside the tower is a fireplace, the flue of which is carried up through the thickness of the wall to the perforated battlement. It is evident that the whole arrangement was with a view to defence.—*Bloxam*. In the interior of the ch. is a good reredos of alabaster and marble, also mons. to Thos. Crossfield, 1744, a former head-master of the school, and to Joseph Cave, 1747, father of Edward Cave, the founder of the '*Gentleman's Magazine*.' Rugby contains (with its suburb of New Bilton) three other chs., viz. Holy Trinity, blt. 1854, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, a cruciform building with central tower. It has a side chapel decorated by *Bodley*. St. Matthew, a modern E.E. ch. contains a mon. to Mrs. Bloxam, a sister of Sir T. Lawrence. It may be here mentioned that the Bloxam family is of very old reputation in

Rugby, and there are few Rugby boys who are not familiar with the name. The well-known antiquary and archæologist, Mr. Matthew Bloxam, still resides here. New Bilton ch., by the late *Mr. Street*, is apsidal. Besides these, there is a beautiful R.C. ch. and monastic establishment in the Dunchurch Road, by the late *Welby Pugin*, which took the place of an earlier building by Pugin the elder. It has a tower and spire 200 ft. in height, and a large amount of decoration has been bestowed upon it, both inside and outside. It is worth remark that a small provincial town like Rugby should possess the architectural creations of so many noted men as Pugin, Sir Gilbert Scott, G. E. Street, and Butterfield, the last-named being the only survivor of the whole number.

The chief attraction of Rugby is, naturally, the time-honoured school, founded by Lawrence Sheriff, 1567, a native of the town (though, according to some, he was born at Brownsover), and afterwards a citizen and grocer of the City of London; the original trustees under the founder's deed of gift, 1569, being George Harrison, of London, gentleman, and Bernard Field, citizen and grocer of London. The school register, however, does not begin until 1675. With the view of affording a sound education to the youth of his native place, Lawrence Sheriff left certain lands in London, now occupied by Lamb's Conduit Street, the income of which, it need scarcely be said, has fabulously increased since his time, and is now of the value of some £6000 a-year. The school buildings formerly stood opposite the parish church, but were removed to their present site about 1740. First of all, a school for the town and immediate neighbourhood, it soon became of great note in Warwickshire, and eventually one of England's most celebrated public schools, one of the mystic seven, before the rise of the modern collegiate and proprietary establishments which are everywhere so thick on the ground. The culminating point of Rugby's renown was during the headmastership of Dr. Arnold, 1828-42, who not only raised the school to a degree of reputation hitherto unknown, but may be said to have almost metamorphosed the whole system and *moral* of public school teaching. The success of a great institution like this so much depends upon the tone and character of the headmaster, that it

is no wonder that Rugby, like other schools, has had its ebb and flow; but even with the extraordinary competition of rival establishments, its reputation is worthily kept up, and justifies the hope of the old motto, *Floreat Rugbeia*. In conformity with the spirit of modern times, great alterations have recently taken place in the extent and scope of the buildings. In Lawrence Sheriff Street is a fine frontage of Tudor building, enlarged by *Hakewill*, and relieved by a tower gateway (over which is the library and class-room of the sixth form) leading into the quadrangle, which contains the various schools and the entrance hall of the School House. The "Big School" is on the rt. Passing at rt. angles through the quadrangle, the visitor arrives at the chapel, which was almost entirely rebuilt at the time of the tercentenary in 1867, on which occasion a gymnasium and swimming bath, with other alterations, were commenced. The chapel, which is of brick, was metamorphosed by the addition of transepts and an apse, surmounted by a tower of 105 ft., with an octagonal lantern, from designs by *Butterfield*. The interior is elaborately decorated, and contains a number of stained glass windows *in memoriam* of former Rugbeians who fell in the Crimean war (thirty-three, a goodly contingent), and also to the twenty-seven heroes who fell in the Indian Mutiny. The E. window, from a monastery in Flanders, and the gift of Dr. Arnold, is said to be by Albert Dürer—subject, the Adoration. There are monuments with effigies to former headmasters: to Dr. James, d. 1804, by *Chantrey*, with a Latin inscription by the late Bp. Butler; to Dr. Wooll, d. 1827, by *Westmacott*; Dr. Arnold, d. 1842, with an inscription by the Chevalier Bunsen; also to assistant-masters, Revs. A. Grenfell, A. Merivale, C. Mayor, H. Highton, and G. Kennedy. There is a memorial window to Rev. H. J. Buckoll, a master for more than forty years, whose name, like those just mentioned, is a household word with scores of Rugby men. The organ, by *Bryceson*, is of great beauty. In front of the school buildings stretches out the Close, a noble playground, timbered with fine old trees, and in its proper time and season resounding with the shouts of the cricketers or the football players at "Big-side" or "punt-about." At the S.E. corner is an old moated tumulus, usually known as the "Island." On the W. runs the Dunchurch road, with the R. C. ch.

and convent; and on the E. is the Barby Road with masters' houses of modern build, replacing the old houses known as Anstey's and Price's. On the Clifton Road is a supplementary school, established of late years by the Trustees to serve as a feeder to the parent school. A new park and a hospital have just been offered to the town by Mr. Wood, a resident. Rugby, as a country town, is quiet and clean, save on one of the numerous cattle fair days, when it is anything but inviting; it attracts a good number of residents for the sake of education (town boys being admitted on unusually advantageous terms), and latterly has a thriving industry of digging lias clay and making cement, the lias being the formation of the neighbourhood. The country round is pretty, though possessing no striking features. The following walks may be taken with advantage:—

- (a) to Bilton 2m. S.W. on the Leamington Road, a picturesque village with historic associations. The Hall (Misses Bridgeman Simpson) was the property of Addison, who bought it in 1711 from the Boughton family, and resided here for many years. It is a charming old-fashioned mansion, the interior being much as it was in his time, and containing portraits by Vandyck, Lely, Kneller, and others. In the formal garden is a walk known as "Addison's Walk." The ch. (Dec.) close by has a tower and octagonal spire. A N. aisle was added in 1872. There is a stained glass E. window—subject, the "Te Deum"—while the organ (or rather the case) formerly belonged to St. John's College, Cambridge. From Bilton a cross country road may be taken (rather over 2m.) to Dunchurch, passing Bilton Grange (J. Lancaster), formerly the residence of the Hibbert family, to which the Roman Catholic faith in the neighbourhood is much indebted. Dunchurch, in Domesday Book called Donecerce [*Inn, Dun Cow. There is a stat. on Rugby and Leamington line*], is, like Bilton, very prettily situated on high ground. The ch. (Dec.) has chancel, nave, and aisles, and a square tower, with a Norm. porch. There is also a singular monument, with double folding doors, to Thos. Newcombe, King's Printer, and founder of some almshouses in the village.

In the village is a statue by *Durham* to Lord John Scott, who lived at Cawston House, and as the representative of the Buccleuch family, which owns much land in this part of the county, was a great favourite with all classes. It will be remarked that the Lion Inn, Dunchurch, was one of the appointed places of meeting for the conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot.

- (b) To Clifton-on-Dunsmore, 2½m. E., a village prettily situated on a rocky hill, and very near the Watling St. and the Leicestershire border. The ch. (E.E.) has a monument to Orlando Bridgeman, 1721. The neighbourhood is full of Roman remains, and 1½m. N.E. is the site of the Roman Tripontium, near the village of Catthorpe, together with several tumuli. About half way thither a road (1.) turns off to Newton, the birth-place of Edward Cave, 1691, who, as a bookseller at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, established the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' which under various forms has existed ever since, though no longer possessing its interesting features. An inn on the Watling St. is still called by his name. From Clifton, follow the valley of the Avon (or the canal bank) to Brownsover, near the junction of the Avon and the Swift (familiar as the old bathing localities of Rugby boys). The village claims to be the birth-place of Lawrence Sheriff, but there appears to be no doubt but that he was really born in Rugby. The little E.E. ch. was restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. It has some good lancet windows and a pulpit, said to have been brought from a Belgian monastery. The scenery at Brownsover Mill is very pretty. Brownsover Hall (E. A. Boughton Leigh).

The walk may be extended to Newbold, in a picturesque situation between the canal and the Avon, which here is somewhat devious. The ch. has a fine Perp. porch, as are also the pier arches of the interior. A good deal of lias clay is dug in this parish. On the opposite bank, farther west, and in the parish of Little Lawford, is Holbrook Grange (C. M. Caldecott), a pleasant-looking and characteristic English manor house, though it

only dates from the commencement of the present century. The former mansion obtained an unenviable notoriety, as being the scene of a *cause célèbre* in 1781, when Sir Theodosius Boughton, a young baronet, whose family had owned this property for very many years, was poisoned by his brother-in-law, Captain Donellan. The evidence was crushing, though circumstantial, the chief facts against him being his known character as a penniless adventurer, and the discovery in the library of a volume of chemistry, where he had turned down the page on the preparation of laurel water (prussic acid). Capt. Donellan was hung at Warwick, and after this tragedy the family deserted the house, and it was sold in 1793 to the Caldecotts, who built Holbrook.

From Rugby the rly. runs due W., giving off on rt. the Midland line to Leicester, Trent Valley to Stafford, and on l. the line to Leamington.

86½ m. rt. Church Lawford, overlooking the Avon. The ch., which formerly belonged to a Norman abbey, was rebuilt 1822 by the Duke of Buccleuch. On the N. bank of the Avon is King's Newnham, where a ruined tower is all that is left of the ch. The late Lord John Scott made some interesting discoveries, while excavating on the site, of coffins of the Earls of Chichester, and also of Lady Audry Leigh and Lady Marie, daughters of Lord Chancellor Brackley. The body of the former was embalmed and in excellent preservation. In Dugdale's time the interior of the ch. was adorned with good fresco paintings. A little distance E. of the village is a mineral bath, said to be exceedingly useful in curing rheumatism and dyspepsia. It has been restored and made available by the Buccleuch family. The valley of the Avon has here proved of much interest to the geologist from the bones of mammalia (rhinoceros and elephas) which have been found in the gravel. The river is crossed just before reaching

89 m. BRANDON STATION. Close by are very scanty remains of Brandon Castle, built soon after the Conquest by Geoffrey de Clinton, and destroyed by the Barons t. Henry IV. The ruins consist of a few masses of rubble work forming the interior of the walls, from which the outward facings of cut stone have been stripped. Brandon

Lodge (J. Beech). On the opposite side of the river is Wolston, the cruciform ch. of which has a good Norm. doorway, with zigzag moulding. Wolston must have been a place of some consequence, as it possessed a priory (now a farm house), or more likely a cell, attached to a Norman abbey. A family of some note, of the name of Clarke, resided here, one of the members of which took part in the Savoy Conference, 1661. His grandson was the celebrated annotator. Silk weaving is carried on to some extent in the village and near Ryton. The pedestrian will find Brandon a convenient station from whence to visit Coombe Abbey (p. 29) 2½m., although this is usually undertaken from Coventry. The walk is very charming along the Twelve o'clock Avenue, one of the characteristic wooded roads for which Warwickshire is famous. The ch. of Ryton on Dunsmore is of Norman date, and has a Norman capital of singular design, and a very narrow one-light window. There is also a brass of a prebendary of Lichfield. There is another pretty view as the rly. crosses the valley of the Sowe, 92m., at which point the old county of Coventry is entered. Soon afterwards three graceful spires appear on rt. and the traveller reaches

94m. COVENTRY STATION. (*Junction with branches to Kenilworth and Leamington (l.) and to Nuneaton (rt.). Fares from Euston 14s. 9d., 11s. 4d., 8s. 2d. Hotels: Queen's; King's Head; Craven Arms; Three Tuns (commercial). Pop. 42,111. Distances: London, 94m; Rugby, 11m.; Birmingham, 19m.; Kenilworth, 4m.; Leamington, 9½m.; Warwick, 9m.; Coombe Abbey, 4m.; Stivichall, 2m.; Stoneleigh Abbey, 4½m.; Nuneaton, 10m.; Hampton, 9m.*) There are few more interesting towns in England, or in which there is such a wealth of archæological and architectural details. Its very early history is somewhat obscure, though it is certain (as its name betokens) that a convent existed here in the time of Canute, of which the abbess was St. Osburg, famous for her sanctity. After its destruction in 1016, by Canute and Edric, this is all that we know of Coventry until the reign of Edward the Confessor, when Leofric, Earl of Mercia, founded a monastery, which became of great celebrity. He married Godiva, whose beauty, virtues, and misfortunes were the making of Coventry, then and for all time. It appears that Leofric, who was

a man of very great importance in the kingdom, was exceedingly harsh and tyrannical towards the townspeople of Coventry, levying heavy taxes and placing vexatious boundaries to their liberties. The burghers solicited the good offices of Godiva in their behalf, and in fulfilment of her promise she approached her husband, and requested him, for her sake, to remit their grievances. He graciously acquiesced, on condition that she should ride on horseback through the streets of Coventry perfectly naked. To his astonishment she accepted the condition, and great preparations were made by the people on the eventful day, everybody being commanded to retire within their houses and darken their windows. Through the deserted streets the self-sacrificing Godiva rode with no other covering but her long hair. The only mischance that happened was that a tailor, unable to restrain his curiosity, gazed from an upper window, and was immediately smitten with blindness, ever since which "Peeping Tom" has shared with Lady Godiva the traditional glories of Coventry. Of course a charter of freedom was bestowed upon the town, and in the following language:—

"I, Luriche, for the love of thee,
Doe make Coventry toll-free."

It is rather sad to think that not only Peeping Tom, but the whole of this pretty story is probably mythical, being mentioned by no one except Matthew of Westminster, while the episode of Peeping Tom is a still later addition of Charles II.'s time. This, however, has never been the belief of Coventry, generations of citizens having grown up holding firmly this article of faith; and in commemoration of it a pageant was established, which was formerly held annually, but now only at intervals of four or five years, in which the ride of Lady Godiva is reproduced, together with a fanciful procession of civic bodies, trade guilds, &c. The real origin of this pageant is, however, attributed by some to a different cause, viz. the mysteries performed by the Grey Friars, previous to the suppression of the monasteries, and which were afterwards kept up as a mockery of the Roman Catholic religion. Leofric's monastery became exceedingly wealthy, "enriched," according to William of Malmesbury, "with so much gold and silver

that the walls seemed too narrow to contain it; inso-much that Robert de Limesi, bishop of the diocese, in the time of William Rufus, scraped from one beam that supported the shrines 500 marks of silver." It enjoyed also the privilege of being subject to no diocesan bishop, though this came to an end in William II.'s reign, when the bishop just named obtained the custodianship of the monastery, and removed his see from Chester to Coventry. This was the beginning of misfortunes for the monastery, a series of feuds continually taking place between the monks and bishops, until, in the reign of Richard I., they were finally expelled for assaulting Bp. Hugh Novant. The cathedral was destroyed by order of Henry VIII. Ranulph, Earl of Chester, gave new charters to town and monastery, the inmates of which were attached to the royal cause and suffered much at the hands of Simon de Montfort and the barons, who had their headquarters at Kenilworth. The manor of Coventry came into the possession of Edward III., which accounts for the three feathers seen in the city arms. From that time many marks of royal favour were shown to the citizens, amongst which was the holding of a Parliament (known as *Parliamentum indoctum*, from the exclusion of all the lawyers) by Henry IV. in 1404, who, some years before, had figured in the lists of Coventry before Richard II., in the trial between himself (while Harry Bolingbroke) and the Duke of Norfolk, when the King sentenced them both to banishment. A second Parliament (called by the Yorkists *Parliamentum diabolicum*, from the number of attainders against the House of York) was held by Henry VI., who, with his wife, Margaret of Anjou, was a great friend to the city; and it was during this that the Duke of York and his son Edward (afterwards Edward IV.) were attainted. Though the Earl of Warwick subsequently held Coventry against the latter King, he pardoned the insult, and resided here for some time at the royal manor of Cheylesmore. After him, Richard III. and Henry VII. successively visited Coventry, the latter, after the battle of Bosworth, staying at the house of the mayor, Robert Onley, a descendant of a former mayor, whose father had been the standard-bearer to Edward III. Very few towns in England can boast of so many royal associations as Coventry, though after Henry VII. the only royalty

that came to visit it was Mary, Queen of Scots, who was imprisoned temporarily in the mayor's parlour. The Princess Elizabeth, too, was brought here for safety from Coombe Abbey at the time of the Gunpowder Plot, the latter place being considered unsafe for her by Lord Harrington. Before this, indeed, the glory of Coventry had been for some time on the wane; for though it was then a splendid place outwardly, being described by Taylor, the water-poet (1639) as "a faire, famous, sweet and ancient city, so walled about with such strength and neatnesse as no city in England may compare with it," its population had largely decreased and its industries diminished. During the civil war the Coventry burghers rather ungratefully declared against the King, which, perhaps, they regretted, when, a few years afterwards, the walls, which had stood for 300 years, were demolished. The Coventry industries of modern times are described at p. 28.

Although the town is not of very great size, few places offer to sight-seers so much of interest, especially in archæological details. The entrance from the station is pleasant, but entirely modern, and the three spires are throughout prominent in the foreground. Three of the old gateways are left—one at the end of Cook Street (N.E. of the town), and one, which belonged to the monastery, leading from White Friars Street into Much Park Street. The gatehouse of the third is inhabited. The corner house of Hertford Street, leading into the market-place, is the inn called the King's Head, in the top storey of which is the effigy of Peeping Tom (p. 20) in all probability a figure of St. George, taken from one of the religious houses at the Reformation. The inn itself (which has been rebuilt) is worth notice for its unusual display of æstheticism, in the shape of an excellent series of stained glass windows by *Evans*, representing incidents in the history of the town.

East of the market-place are the two splendid churches of St. Michael's and Trinity, the chief objects of interest in Coventry. St. Michael's has, added to the grace of form, the charm of colour, for it is built of new red sandstone, the wearing of which gives a peculiar look of age. The tower and spire were built by William and Adam Botoner (each twice mayor of the city) in 1373, and both church and tower (the whole building

being 21 years in completion) are a glorious example of Perp. architecture, both for size, detail and elaborate ornamentation. The tower and spire together are 303 ft. in height, the former consisting of three stages, adorned with niches, filled in the upper storey with statues of saints. From the tower rises an octagon supported by eight flying buttresses of exceeding beauty, and above this is the spire, considered by Sir C. Wren, and in later times by Rickman, to be one of the finest examples in the kingdom. The chief characteristics of the ch., which will hold 3000 persons, are its great size and the profusion of stained-glass. The entire length of the ch. is 240ft. by 119 in breadth; that of the nave being 157 by 52. It consists of nave, separated from the two side aisles by six noble arches, above which are 12 clerestory windows, each of four lights. Divided from the aisles by five arches on each side are two external aisles, the peculiarity of them being that while the principal aisles and nave are of equal breadth and length, the outer ones run through half the length, thus giving the ch. an enormous area and an appearance of great dignity. The presbytery is apsidal, of remarkably beautiful elevation, and lavishly decorated, the figures in canopied niches between the windows being by Lane, of Birmingham. The three end windows, of great height, are by O'Connor, consisting of three transoms with four lights in each. They commemorate Queen Adelaide, and the subjects are scenes from the life of Christ. The centre window was presented by Rt. Hon. E. Ellice, M.P. The two remaining windows are, however, the more interesting, as they contain the old glass. In the N. chantry, which was the chapel of St. Lawrence and Our Lady, and formed the Consistory Court, are four windows with very good tracery, each of seven lights, and all by Heaton and Butler. The first on the top (N. side) given by Mr. Eaton, M.P.—subject, scenes in the life of Solomon; the next (going W.) *in memoriam* to the Prince Consort—subject, scenes in the life of Moses. Underneath is an inscription to Mr. Thomas Bond, founder of the Bablake Hospital MDVI. The third window is to the 8th Lord Craven, d. 1866—subject, scenes in the life of David. In the S. chantry, which was the Mercers' chapel, are windows also by Heaton and Butler, a fine altar tomb with figures under canopies,

and another with three recumbent figures and four compartments underneath. Both the chapels have good screens and carved oak stalls. In the inner S. aisle are stained glass to Gen. Adams, d. at Scutari 1859; Wm. Lowe; T. Sharp; H. Lea, who gave £1000 to the ch.; Mrs. Soden, &c. The outer S. aisle was St. Thomas' or Cappers' chapel, founded 1467 by the Fellowship of Woollen Cardmakers. It has a window to Archdeacon Spooner, d. 1857. At the W. end, in what was the Dyers' or Mourners' chapel, is a beautiful alabaster font, together with three windows of four lights each. The pulpit is of elaborate metal work, and was the gift of Mr. R. A. Dalton. The glass of the N. clerestory and six of the S. windows is all old, the great feature of the whole consisting in the windows being set so closely together that the entire length of wall appears to be perforated. In the N. aisle are memorial windows to C. Dresser; Wm. Wilmot; Col. Hood, who fell in the Crimea; the altar tomb of Sir T. Berkeley, 1611; and another with sculptured figures at the W. end. The outer N. aisle was apportioned to the Girdlers' chapel, a company which was abolished 1667, and the Smiths' or St. Andrew's chapel, founded by that guild 1449. Notice should be taken of the fine timber roof of the nave, ornamented with bosses and stars. The organ is at the W. end. It has been frequently altered and renewed, and is said to have been played upon by Handel.

Close to St. Michael's (only the roadway intervening) is Holy Trinity Ch., which would be better appreciated if it was further away from the former, for it decidedly suffers by comparison. But it has the advantage of being cruciform, consisting of nave with aisles and an additional W. aisle, choir and transepts, and is, like St. Michael's, a beautiful example of Perpendicular style. The choir is of unusual length, and the nave is 70 ft. A graceful tower and spire, 237 ft. in height, rises from the intersection, though it is singular that the bells have been removed from the tower and are placed in a very peculiar wooden belfry, which stands N. of the ch. on the site of the old cathedral nave. As in St. Michael's, the roof is finely illuminated in blue and gold. The piers which separate the nave from the aisles are angular shaped, each one being hollowed or fluted. The clerestory has eight bays, each containing two win-

dows with Perp. tracery, and the tower has a lantern with a groined roof. Like its neighbour, Trinity is apportioned out in various chapels. On the N. side, west of the porch, is the Archdeacon's chapel, over the Consistory Court. E. of the porch, adjoining the N. transept is St. Thomas' chapel, beneath which is a crypt. East of the N. transept is Marlers' chapel, which also has a crypt. The chapel of Our Lady forms a continuation of the N. chancel aisle, while the S. chancel aisle is the Butchers' chapel; the S. transept, the Jesus chapel; the S. aisle of the nave, the Tanners', or Barber's aisle. The connection between the churches and the commercial interests of the town is a most interesting and unique feature. The pulpit is of stone of the date of the 15th cent.—an excellent example—and there is also an ancient Elizabethan charity box, with the shaft covered with arabesque scroll work. The rood loft was carried across the chancel, one bay to the E. of the tower piers. A fresco painting over the chancel arch has been preserved and not met with the same fate as the one at Stratford-on-Avon, which was destroyed. There is but little of the old stained glass, but a good deal of modern, the E. window being a memorial of Mr. R. S. Cox; the west window, of Dean Hook, who was once vicar of the parish. The reredos is by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, the subjects being the Nativity, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension. Connected with the S. transept was formerly an old house, called Jesus Hall, in which the vicars lived, but that was taken down in 1742. To the N. of the two chs. lay the Cathedral and the Priory, of which a few foundations have been exposed in front of the Bluecoat School, and, indeed, a fragment of the wall built into it; but most of the Priory site is covered by red brick houses. Immediately opposite St. Michael's (S. side) is St. Mary's Hall, the history of which is closely connected with the mediæval city guilds, and which was founded in the 14th cent., by the guild after which it is named. Few domestic remains in this country are of such interest. The entrance is by a carved stone porch, with groined roof, leading into a small court, the W. side of which is occupied by the Great Hall, a noble room, 76 ft. long by 30 ft. wide, with oak roof, and whole-length figures of angels playing upon instruments. In this apartment the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of

James I., dined, 1603, and was presented with a golden cup; Prince Henry in 1611, and James II. in 1687 were also entertained here. The N. window, of old stained glass, has 9 compartments, in each of which is a full-length figure of a royal personage. Under this window is the celebrated tapestry, which was exhibited at S. Kensington, and illustrates the close connexion between Coventry and Henry VI., who was a member of the Trinity guild. It contains no less than 80 heads, and dates from the early part of the 16th cent. The centre of the chief compartment was originally occupied by a representation of God the Father, but this was taken away during the zeal of the reforming days and one of Justice substituted. In a recessed chamber at the W. side is placed a beautiful sculpture of Lady Godiva. There is also a series of portraits of English sovereigns, from Elizabeth to Geo. IV., including one that is generally called a portrait of Queen Mary. At the S. end is the Minstrel Gallery, in front of which is a collection of armour, weapons, and other mediæval curiosities. The other apartments consist of the Mayoress's Parlour, the Council Chamber, and the Armoury. The muniment-room contains the charter granted 1153 by Earl Ranulph; a letter from Queen Anne Boleyn, announcing the birth of the Princess Elizabeth; and another from Elizabeth herself, giving the mayor the responsibility of keeping Mary Queen of Scots in close custody. The kitchen is also an interesting room, which has, doubtless, actively dispensed hospitality to countless visitors to the various Guilds. It has an opening in the centre of the roof, surmounted by a lantern, for the purpose of letting the smoke escape. The whole of this neighbourhood is rich in examples of domestic architecture, and there is a good specimen of carved beams and gables close to St. Mary's Hall, the only one of a whole row which has survived. The most characteristic street architecture is to be found adjoining Trinity ch., in Butcher Row, and in a narrow lane leading into Cross Cheaping.

The very interesting ch. of St. John (restored 1875 by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*), exists on the W. of the town (at the end of Smithford Street, in which stand the barracks, on the site of the Bull Inn, where Mary Queen of Scots was temporarily confined), and close to the site of the

ancient Spon-gate. It is cruciform, consisting of choir, nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts, and a tower arising from the intersection. At its restoration, the floor, which had been previously considerably raised, was reduced to its proper level, with the good effect of revealing the bases of the pillars. The choir of this ch. has a distinct bend to the N., and the W. wall is not at rt. angles with the adjoining walls. It also had a doorway at the E. end, which was somewhat unusual; but this was replaced by a window at the time of the restoration. There is a stained glass window, given by Mr. Rotherham, and a reredos in memory of a former vicar. Close by St. John's (which owes its erection to the guild of that name) is a beautiful example of domestic architecture in Bablake Hospital, founded by Thomas Bond, draper and mayor, 1506, for eighteen resident almsmen. It contains a portrait of John Hales, the founder of the Grammar School, t. Henry VIII., which is attributed to *Holbein*. The Grammar School itself was originally held at the ch. of the White Friars, but was moved to its present site, which was once the ch. of St. John's Hospital. It has an E. window with exceedingly good tracery. One of its most celebrated scholars was Dugdale, the antiquary, 1615. In the narrow Grey Friars Lane is Ford's Hospital, founded in the 16th cent. for seventeen resident widows; a most picturesque quadrangle, entered from the street by a low archway, leading into a very small court. In the window of what was the chapel are two figures representing the Virgin and St. John. The Grey Friars were the principal performers in the Coventry pageants. The old Palace in Earl Street also possesses several features of architectural interest, though it is not known who were its original owners. The ancient Cross Cheaping, which was so gorgeous with decoration and colour that it was impossible to look at it when the sun shone, was taken away in 1771.

Although the chief attractions of Coventry lie in its archæology, the town is by no means deficient in buildings of modern requirement, but which may be briefly summed up. There are five other churches (of which Christ Church (Decorated), built on the site of the Grey Friars Monastery, makes up the trio of Coventry spires). The others are St. Peter's, Hill Fields; St. Thomas', Summerland Butts; St. Mark's, opposite the Coventry

and Warwickshire Hospital; All Saints, Far Gosford Street, near Gosford Green, where the trial between the Duke of Norfolk and Harry of Hereford took place. The cemetery (on the London Road) has a good (Norman) Episcopal Chapel, and a statue to Sir Joseph Paxton, under whose care the grounds were laid out. The School of Art in Ford Street, and the Free Library, opposite St. Michael's ch., are both in keeping with the wants of the population. There are also a Corn Exchange in Hertford Street, a Market Hall at the back of Smithford Street, with an exceedingly good clock tower, and a Drapers' Hall.

Brief mention must be made of Coventry industries, the town having been for five centuries the seat of certain departments of textile manufactures. In 1436 it was famous for its woollen cloth caps and bonnets, and, subsequently, for blue thread, known as "Coventry true blue." In 1581 the woollen trade took root here, and continued to be the staple manufacture until the Turkey trade was destroyed in 1694. To this succeeded silk throwing and ribbon weaving, which have ever since been more or less identified with the town, though few trades can show so many fluctuations, arising from the caprices of fashion, the introduction of new materials, and the destructive competition of our French neighbours. Still, in the matter of ribbons, Coventry has fairly held its own, and certainly in the quality of work; and to this a great impetus was given by the discovery of the aniline dyes. The visitor will notice in his rambles that much home weaving is carried on, as evidenced by the long windows in the upper storeys of many of the houses; for Coventry, although it possesses some large factories, scarcely comes within the category of factory towns, like Macclesfield or Derby. Of late years many new modifications of textiles have been introduced, such as worsted weaving, elastic web weaving, the manufacture of cambric frillings, gimp trimmings, and towels, under which head the name of Cash is familiar to the "tubbers" of the present age. Watch making was commenced here about the middle of the last century, and the trade (especially in movements) occupies a large number of persons. Art metal work is also a notable feature of the town, and many of the most beautiful lecterns and screens of modern and restored

churches are produced here. Bicycles, too, are a great specialty, there being several firms engaged in turning out this most necessary mechanical traveller for young England.

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) By rail to Kenilworth and Leamington (p. 88).
- (b) By rail to Brandon and Rugby (p. 18).
- (c) To Coombe Abbey, 4m. E., leaving the town by Gosford Green. This was the scene of the duel between the Duke of Norfolk and Harry of Hereford, in the lists before Richard II., so graphically described by Holinshead. Bearing to rt., and crossing the Sowe river, the visitor reaches 3m.

Binley (*Inn : Craven Arms*), where is a large middle-class school. In Binley ch. is buried the 1st Earl of Craven, who was noted for his philanthropy. 1½m. further is the lodge entrance to Coombe Abbey, the beautiful residence of the Earl of Craven, situated in a charming park, overlooking a lake of 90 acres. [*As the house is not open to ordinary visitors, application for admission had better be made beforehand.*] The Abbey was originally founded by Rd. de Camvill, in the time of Stephen, 1151, and was the earliest Cistercian settlement in the county, the monks who were placed here having been transplanted from the Abbey of Waverley, near Farnham, Surrey. In 1547 it was granted by Edward VI. to the Earl of Warwick, and after his execution, came into the Harrington family. Early in the following century, the estate was purchased by Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, with whose descendants (created Earls of Craven) it still remains. The interest of Coombe Abbey is, however, of later date, and of a more romantic kind than that which attaches to its monastic inhabitants. When Lord Harrington was the possessor of Coombe, the Princess Elizabeth, the young daughter of James I., was placed under his care for the purpose of education, and lived there for a considerable time; and it was during this period that the Gunpowder Plot conspirators assembled at Dun-

church and formed a plan for attacking the Abbey, and carrying off the Princess. This, however, was foiled by Lord Harrington's removing her to Coventry until the danger was over. At the age of sixteen she was married to Frederick the Elector Palatine, whose rather unfortunate career culminated in his accepting the crown of Bohemia. In this proceeding he was strongly backed up by his wife, who declared that she would rather eat bread only as a queen, than feast as merely an elector's wife. As King of Bohemia he was still more unlucky than as Elector Frederick, and after being deprived of his dominions and wandering about a homeless king, he died; whereupon his widow, the Queen of Bohemia, returned to England, and availed herself of Lord Craven's offer that she should take up her abode once more at the Abbey, where she had spent so many happy days in early life. A strong platonic attachment sprung up between the Queen and Lord Craven, and it is even stated that she was privately married to him. At any rate, she testified her affection for him by leaving him, at her death, the greater part of her valuables.

The Abbey has been frequently altered, and was partly rebuilt by the late Earl Craven. In the east wing there are some remains of the ancient Abbey, in the shape of a row of Norm. arches, being a portion of the cloisters, and a Tr.-Norm. doorway, while Inigo Jones is believed to have planned the lake front. The interior contains some fine rooms, amongst them being the great gallery, the north parlour, the breakfast room, the Vandyck room, the cedar room, the gilt parlour, and the beauty parlour, so called from the portraits of the ladies of Charles II.'s court. The most notable pictures are the portraits of Charles I., and his Queen, Henrietta Maria, by *Vandyck*; the King and Queen of Bohemia, Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, all by *Honthorst*; there is another portrait of Prince Rupert by *Vandyck*, and one of William, Earl Craven, by *Honthorst*; also a portrait of Vandyck himself; Moses and the Serpent, by *Rubens*; Duchess of

Cleveland, *Lely*. The gardens, which are 40 acres in extent, are worth visiting.

- (d) To Wyken, 3½m. N.E. (l. of the Hinckley road), where is a Norman ch. with a semicircular doorway with billet moulding. The manor-house was an old residence of the Cravens, and in the garden grew a celebrated apple known as the Wyken Pippin, brought by Admiral Craven from Holland. Near the spot where the road to Wyken is given off are slight traces of a ruin called Caledon Castle, built during the reign of Edward I. It is only of interest as having been the lodging of Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, at the time of the trial between him and Harry of Hereford at Coventry. The village of Sowe, a little farther on, is just outside the boundary of the County of Coventry, constituted as such by Henry VI., but the jurisdiction of which was abolished in 1843.
- (e) To Stivichall, 2m. S., turning off l. from the Warwick road, at the top of the hill above the station. The pedestrian is, however, recommended to follow the Warwick road for some little distance and enjoy the beautiful avenue of oaks and the grassy rides. Warwickshire possesses many such roads, but none more lovely. Stivichall once had a grange, built by the Gregorys, an Elizabethan family, and a ch. said to have been of Saxon date. This was taken down at the beginning of the century, and the present ch. erected, being entirely the work of one mason's hands, William Green by name, who spent forty years on this building. 1½m. S.W. very prettily situated, over-looking the valley of Sowe, is Baginton, with an E.E. ch., containing mons. to Sir W. Bagot and wife, 1400. Baginton Hall (W. Bromley Davenport). The return to Coventry may be made through Whitley, where Charles I. was quartered when he summoned the citizens to surrender. Whitley Abbey (E. Petre) was formerly the residence of Lord Hood.
- (f) Allesley 2m., on the Birmingham road, a pretty village, a favourite residence with Coventry business men and others. The ch. (reblt. 1863) is of

Dec. date; and there is a pretty new ch. with a spire at Eastern Green, a little to S.W.

From Coventry the main line runs due W. to

97½m. **TILEHILL STATION.**

99½m. **BERKSWELL STATION.** The old well, which gives its name to the village (1m. rt.) still remains, with its stone framework. The ch. is Norm., the chancel being a parallelogram with rectangular termination. There is also a crypt. In the interior is a monument to Sir J. Eardley Wilmot, a Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. During service in this church, the men and women are separated. Berkswell Hall (T. Walker). At 102m. the rail crosses the Blythe R. to

103m. **HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN STATION.** (*Junction with Midl. Ry. to Whitacre and Derby.*) The church, placed on rising ground, l. of the rly., is Norm., and once had a very beautiful spire, which, according to Dugdale, was struck by lightning in 1603. Hampton-in-Arden derives the latter part of its name, like Henley-in-Arden, from the woodland character of the country lying N. of the Avon, while that to the S. was more pastoral, and called therefore by Camden the "Feldon." About 2m. rt. of Hampton is Packington Hall, the seat of the Earl of Aylesford, and nearly the same distance N.E. is the village of Meriden (*Inn: Bull's Head*), from which, as being the very centre of England, the name of meridian is derived. The S. aisle of the ch. was once a chantry built by Wyard, one of the gentlemen attendants of Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. Meriden Hall (C. W. Digby). On Meriden Heath, adjoining Packington, was encamped the Duke of Cumberland on his way north to meet the Pretender's Highlanders. The ch. at Bickenhill (l. of rly.) is Norm., and once belonged to the nunnery of Merkyate in Bedfordshire. It has a stained glass east window. Farther on is Elmdon ch., which has a monument to the late Archdeacon Spooner. Elmdon Hall (W. C. Alston.)

106m. **MARSTON GREEN STATION**, near which are the schools and infirmary of the Birmingham Guardians. The line now crosses a small strip of Worcestershire. At

109m. **STECHEFORD STATION** (*Junction with connecting branch to Walsall, obviating the necessity for entering Birmingham*) the river Cole is crossed. 2m. N. is the

old moated grange of Kinghurst, and 1m. l. is Yardley village, with the Saxon entrenchment of Rents Moat and a good half-timbered house called Blakesley Hall. The increasing signs of a great manufacturing centre soon give notice of the approach to the Midland metropolis. At 112m. the ticket platform is reached and a short tunnel leads to

113m. BIRMINGHAM (*New St. Station*, p. 59).

Railway Excursions.

II. RUGBY TO NUNEATON, ATHERSTONE AND TAMWORTH. (TRENT VALLEY, L.N.W.)

The Trent Valley line turns off outside the Rugby station (p. 12) between the Birmingham and the Midland Railway to Leicester, crossing the Avon by a viaduct and running close to the village of Newbold (rt.) and Holbrook Grange (O. M. Caldecott) (p. 17) on l. At 2½m. the Oxford Canal is crossed, leaving rt. on high ground the village of Harborough Magna. The ch. restored 1879, has a memorial window to the late Sir T., Skipwith.

88m. (from London) STRETTON STATION). The name betokens its position on the Roman Fosse-way, which comes up from the south, and a little further on crosses the Watling Street. The village of Stretton under the Fosse is ¼m. rt., and near it is Newbold Revel (E. H. Wood). The same distance l. is Brinklow, an interesting village, containing a tumulus (known far and wide as Brinklow Tump) and camp, both of Roman origin, in the direct line of the Fosse-way. There are traces of a covered way in connection with the tumulus at Bensford Bridge. The ch. (restored 1862) is of Perp. date. Brinklow is only 1½m. from the east lodge at Coombe Abbey (Earl of Craven) (p. 29), which is therefore more accessible for the pedestrian from this part of the county than from Coventry.

EXCURSION.

2m. N.E. is the village of Monks Kirby, which contains a large R. C. convent, school and orphanage. The ch. (Dec.) has chancel, nave with aisles, two

chapels, and a tower at the W. end of aisle. It was formerly noted for a very fine spire, but this was partly taken down by the parishioners, who were blind to its beauty, and only thought of sparing the rates by minimising any possible repairs. The ch. contains several interesting monuments of the Feilding family, and a rude stone effigy, supposed to be that of Geoffry de Wirce, the founder. Close to Monks Kirby is the hamlet of Brockhurst, beyond which is Newnham Paddox, the seat of the Earl of Denbigh, whose family (that of the Feildings) acquired it in Henry VI.'s reign, by marriage with the grand-daughter and heiress of Robert de Newnham. The mansion (one of the great R. C. seats) was restored by *Wyatt*, and contains some interesting paintings, amongst others *Gerbier's* portrait of the Infanta Maria of Spain, and many family portraits by *Vandyck*, *Gainsborough*, *Kneller*, &c. The chapel has a fine carved reredos and altar-piece in coloured marbles. The park is noted for its beautiful avenues.

3½m. N. of Stretton is High Cross, the site of the ancient Roman station of Vennones or Bennones, and afterwards of the Saxon city of Cleyceastre. A pillar, now much the worse for wear, was erected (in 1711) to denote the position, and also commemorate the restoration of peace by Queen Anne, with a long Latin inscription. Upon this elevated ground, from whence, on a clear day, it is said that 57 churches may be seen, stood one of the three great fire beacons of Warwickshire.

91½ SHILTON STATION. A little to l. is the village of Ansty, the ch. of which has a memorial spire to Gen. Adams, who fell at Inkerman. The Hall (Capt. Adams.)

3m. N.E. on the road to Hinckley is Wolvey, historically interesting, as being the spot where Edward IV. was surprised by the Earl of Warwick, and taken to Middleham Castle in Yorkshire. According to Dugdale a hermitage existed near this village. Lady Dorothy Smyth was burnt here in 1555 for brutally strangling her husband, Sir Walter Smyth, of Shelford. From Wolvey it is 3½m. to Hinckley, passing (rt.) Lancaster Grange (Dowager Lady Dixie).

2m. E. of Shilton is Withybrook ch. (Perp.) with a tower at W. end of the aisle.

93½ BULKINGTON STATION. The ch. (½m. rt.) which formerly belonged to Leicester Abbey, is interesting for containing the works of an amateur sculptor named Richard Hayward, who resided at Weston Hall, consisting of a marble communion table, on the surface of which is The Last Supper.

95m. the line crosses the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal and reaches

97m. NUNEATON STATION. (*Refreshment Rooms; Junction with branch to Coventry: also to Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The Midland Rly. has also a station 1m. distant, for the Birmingham and Leicester line. Hotels: Newdegate Arms, Bull. Pop. 8465. Distances: Rugby 14m.; Birmingham 22m.; Coventry 9m.; London 97m.; Tamworth 13m.; Hinckley 5m.; Hartshill 2½m.; Atherstone 5m.*) Nuneaton, with its red brick houses and its manufacturing appearance, does not give the idea of antiquity, such as undoubtedly belongs to the town. It is a brisk, stirring place, situated on the Anker, with a considerable trade in cotton, woollen and worsted spinning, while in the neighbourhood are various collieries and foundries. The first part of its name was derived from the Abbey of St. Mary, the foundations of which and the bases of the tower piers are still to be seen in the outskirts near the Midland station. A modern ch. has been built on the spot from designs by Rolfe, which is intended to be a reproduction, as far as possible, of the style of the abbey. The parish ch. belonged to the Monastery of Lira in Normandy, and contains a noteworthy monument to Sir Marmaduke Constable, besides others to the families of Trotman and Stratford. There is a grammar school with a good reputation, founded by Edward VI. A little S. of the town are the manufacturing villages of Chilvers Coton, and Attleboro', where ribbons, cotton thread and elastic web are produced; and about the same distance N. is the village of Weddington, on the banks of the Anker. Weddington Hall (H. Cunliffe-Shaw). The ch. contains a monument to Humphrey Adderley, 1598, and an altar-piece of the Crucifixion after Vandyck. Nuneaton has the honour of being the birthplace of "George Elliot" (Mrs. Cross), d. 1880, who obtained her knowledge of scenery from her acquaintance with the Midlands.

The most interesting excursion from Nuneaton is that to Shenton in Leicestershire (a station on the Midland Rly. to Ashby), and the centre of the district in which took place the Battle of Bosworth Field between King Richard III. and the Earl of Richmond (Henry VII.) in 1485. From Nuneaton the rly. follows the course of the Anker, the scenery of which is in many places very pleasing.

99m. (rt.) Caldecote, the scene of a gallant and successful defence made in 1642 by Geo. Abbott at Caldecote Hall (H. Townshend) against an attack made by the Royalist forces under Prince Rupert. The owner, Col. Purefoy, a Parliamentary leader, was absent, and the garrison consisted of Mr. Abbott his son-in-law, Mrs. Purefoy, the maid servants, and eight men. So stubborn were they that all the pewter dishes and all the plate were melted down for bullets, and it was not until after the Royalists had set fire to the house that Mrs. Purefoy rushed out and implored protection for the lives of the garrison, which was immediately granted. The old manor house has disappeared. The ch. contains a monument to Mr. Abbott, commemorating this event, and also some effigies of the Purefoy family. 101m. rt. the village of Mancetter.

102½m. ATHERSTONE STATION. (*Inn: Old Red Lion*, the milestone at the door of which informs the wayfarer that London, Lincoln and Liverpool are each 100m. distant from this spot. *Pop. about 4000. Distances: Nuneaton, 5m; Tamworth 7½m.; Birmingham 25m.; Hartshill 4m.; Oldbury 3m.*) An active little town, the main street of which is formed by the Watling Street. As far as Mancetter, this road forms the boundary between Leicester and Warwickshire, but at this point it is deflected a little to the N. by the Anker river. During some recent drainage operations, the actual Roman road was found, the stones joined by strong cement. The town itself, which has a specialty for the making of hats, will not detain the tourist, though there is a good deal of interest and much pretty scenery in the neighbourhood. The ch. has an octagonal tower between the nave and chancel, the latter portion being partitioned off from the rest of the building. Henry VII., when Earl of Richmond, dined at the Three Tuns Inn on the day before the Bosworth Field battle. Atherstone contains a grammar

school, founded 1573 by Sir W. Devereux and others, for which a new scheme has been recently laid down, including the erection of entirely new school buildings. Outside the town, on the Ashby road, is Atherstone Hall (Rev. B. Compton) an old mansion built from the ruins of the priory.

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) 1½m. on Nuneaton road to Mancetter, which boasts of a far higher origin than Atherstone, as it is the site of the Roman Manduessedum, which occupied about six acres, in which traces of Roman domestic buildings and coins have been found. The ch. (restored 1880) is in the enclosure of a camp, and has interesting stained glass, said to have been brought from Merevale Abbey, one of the abbots of which, in the time of Henry VI., founded here a chantry and guild, of which some trace is left in a dwelling-house. Mancetter House (Colonel Cumming) was the residence of the Glover family, one of whom suffered martyrdom for his faith at Coventry, as did also, in 1557, another Mancetter inhabitant, a Mrs. Joyce Lewis, *née* Curzon, who was burned at Lichfield. There is a monument to her in the ch. The village has a group of almshouses, founded 1725 by James Gramer, a goldsmith of London. Mancetter Lodge (Major Manley).
- (b) 1m. S.W. to Merevale (or the pedestrian may cross country (about 2½m.) from Mancetter, an exceedingly pretty walk). Seated on high ground, 400 feet above the sea, and commanding wide and beautiful views, is Merevale Park (W. Stratford Dugdale), a name that should be held in high esteem among antiquaries, and especially those interested in Warwickshire history. N.W. of the hall is Merevale ch. and the site of the Abbey. Merevale, founded by Robert, Lord Ferrars, 1148, was one of the three great Cistercian Abbeys in Warwickshire, the others being Coombe and Stoneleigh Abbeys, and the dates of the three being 1149, 1150, and 1154 respectively. Architectural details more or less exist both at Coombe and Stoneleigh, but there are very few at Merevale. Of the conventual buildings there is only a por-

tion, the refectory, which contains on the S. wall part of the old pulpit. This room is called the "hall" in the inventory of the Abbey, in which document the furniture is valued at 3s. 4d. The foundations of the ch. were exposed in 1849, and showed that, like other Cistercian churches, the ground plan was very simple, being a long narrow nave, with narrower aisles, two short transepts and a short choir. The entire length of the ch. was 230 ft., the breadth of the nave 28 ft. and of the aisles 15 ft., while the length and breadth of the choir were 40 ft. and 21 ft. W. of the Abbey was the gatehouse, which has disappeared; but the chapel of the gatehouse is now the parish ch. This chapel formerly consisted of nave and aisle (divided by two pointed arches) and a chancel. "The latter is gone, the aisles have been demolished, and the ancient nave alone forms a kind of ante-chapel to the present ch. But here comes the singularity of the structure, for, eastward is a nave with aisles constituting the greater portion of the present ch."—*Bloxam*. The E. window is exceedingly good, and contains some of the ancient stained glass of the 14th cent., while that in the N. aisle is of the 15th cent. There are remains of a Jesse window. The monuments are very interesting. There is a brass of a knight and his lady (t. Henry VI.), with sculptured effigies of another of the same period; also a monumental effigy of a knight clad in shirt of mail, with his legs protected by pantaloons of the same kind—over the whole is a surcoat of linen, the skirts of which nearly reach to the feet, and a shield is affixed to the arm. The knight is probably William, third Earl Ferrars, 1254. The high tomb and effigies of alabaster are those of John Handerwell and wife, who was a bailiff of Coventry in the 15th cent.

There are also monuments to the families of Dugdale and Stratford, the latter of whom obtained possession by purchase of Merevale in the 17th cent., prior to which it had been in the possession of the Ferrars.

- (c) To Oldbury Camp, 3m., and Hartshill 4m., through a beautiful country (p. 83). Take road to

rt. from Atherstone, leading to Bentley, crossing the canal, and soon afterwards following a foot-path on l. which cuts off a considerable distance.

106m. **POLESWORTH STATION**, previous to which are passed on rt. the village of Grendon and Grendon Hall (Sir G. Chetwynd, Bt.), in a pretty park watered by the Anker. The ch. is Dec. and has stained glass in memory of the Chetwynd family. At Polesworth there existed a very old Benedictine Nunnery until 1539, said by Dugdale to have been the earliest religious house in Warwickshire. Some fragments of the refectory are incorporated with the modern Vicarage. In the ch. is an effigy of an abbess of this nunnery, date 14th centy. (P), quite unique as regards costume. She wears the coif and wimple, and over the head is the veil. A large gown with wide skirts completes the dress, while at the feet a hart is lying down. The neighbourhood, which is now invaded by collieries and brickyards, is rather rich in old houses, the chief being Pooley Hall (now a farmhouse), very picturesque, built by Sir T. Cockain in 1509.

110m. **TAMWORTH STATION**, where the line is crossed by the Midland Rly. to Derby.

Railway Excursions.

III. RUGBY TO LEAMINGTON (L.N.W.).

From Rugby Station the Leamington line turns away to S.W., having on l. the village of Bilton (p. 16).

3m. **DUNCHURCH STATION**. The village of Dunchurch lies on high ground, at least 1½m. l. (p. 16). Dunsmore Heath is then crossed, the rly. running through a deep cutting. Dunsmore, as also Dunchurch, is associated in Warwickshire tradition with Guy, Ear. of Warwick, and his conflict with the Dun Cow; but the real etymology is from Daengow, a Danish tribe with whom a battle was fought here. A little to rt. is Frankton, the ch. of which, restored 1872, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, has a stained glass window to Col. Biddulph, who fell in the Indian Mutiny.

7m. **BIRDINGBURY STATION**. The village (l.) is situated on the Leam, which is crossed by a bridge of one arch. Birdingbury Hall (Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bt.). The ch. has an apsidal chancel and octagonal tower, and

contains a good oak screen, presented by Lady Bidulph. The family of Homer, a very well-known Warwickshire name in times gone by, belonged to this parish. Several of them were at different periods masters at Rugby School, and one was an intimate friend of Burke and Fox. 1m. S.E. is the village of Leamington Hastings, the ch. of which formerly belonged to the Priory of Nostell in Yorkshire. In the village is a block of almshouses, built by Lady Wheeler. Bourton ch., 1m. N., is charmingly situated. It has a spire, a font of the 13th centy., and a pulpit of the 17th. Near the ch. is Bourton Hall (R. H. Shuckburgh), a Doric mansion.

8½m. MARTON STATION. (*Omnibus to Southam.*) The village, ½m. rt., is very prettily situated at the junction of the Itchen with the Leam, the latter river being crossed by a bridge built in Henry V.'s reign, by John Middleton, a London merchant. The one which preceded it was erected in Henry III.'s time, and the lessees of the tolls were successively the abbots of Sulby, near Naseby, and the prioress of Catesby; but when the new bridge was built the tolls were remitted. There is nothing of interest in the ch., which belonged to the religious house at Nuneaton. 2m. S. of Marton Stat. is Long Itchington, where Queen Elizabeth dined when on her progress to Kenilworth. The village was the birth-place of Bp. Wulstan, the devoted servant of King Edward the Confessor. The ch., which formerly belonged to the abbey of Hertford, contains an interesting example of pattern glazing and figured panes of white glass, with coloured borders, of Dec. date. 1m. N. of Marton is Princethorpe, where is a large R. C. school and Benedictine nunnery; and further N. still is the ch. of Stretton-on-Dunsmore, by *Rickman*, attached to which, in Edward III.'s reign, was a chantry, founded by Thomas de Wolvadynton. About 3m. W. of Marton are the chs. of Wapenbury and Honingham, the former E.E., the latter, which belonged to the monks of Sulby, having a wooden tower. Eathorpe House (Capt. Scott). At Wapenbury are traces of a Roman station. 12½m. rt. is Offchurch Bury (Dowager Ctss. Aylesford), remarkable for the beauty of the timber in the park. A little further on (rt.) is Radford Simele ch., given by Henry I. to the monks of Kenilworth. Between

Offchurch and Radford the Warwick and Napton Canal is crossed.

15m. LEAMINGTON STATION. (*Junction with line to Coventry. There is also a G.W.R. stat. close by, p. 44.*)

Railway Excursions.

IV. BANBURY TO LEAMINGTON, WARWICK, AND BIRMINGHAM (G.W.R.).

The traveller from Paddington to Birmingham and the North follows the main G.W.R. to Didcot, thence turning abruptly to Oxford.

BANBURY STATION. (*There is also a stat. of the L.N.W. for Bletchley, and of the Northampton and Banbury Junct. Rly. for Blisworth. Pop. 12,072. Hotel: White Lion.*) Except as a starting-place from whence to commence explorations on the southern borders of Warwickshire, Banbury will not detain the tourist. It is a flourishing, clean, country town, with a considerable manufacture of agricultural machinery and a reputation for Banbury cakes, as to the toothsome-ness of which opinion is much divided. After passing (90m.)

COPBEDY STATION, the line enters Warwickshire at 92m., between the villages of Claydon (rt.) and Farnborough (l.), the ch. of which was restored, 1875, by the late Sir G. G. Scott. Farnborough Hall (Ven. Archdeacon Holbeche). At 93m. the line crosses the East and West Junction Rly., which runs from Broom Junction to Stratford-on-Avon, Kineton, Fenny Compton and Blisworth, but up to the present time is only used for local goods traffic.

94m. FENNY COMPTON STATION. The village lies 1m. l. The ch., which belonged to the Priory of Kenilworth, was restored in 1879, and consists of chancel, nave and aisles, N. porch and tower, with a low spire. The N. door bears traces, in the shape of bullet marks, of the Parliamentary contests which raged in this neighbourhood, Edge Hill being only some 5m. S.W. It has a piscina and an aumbrey in the N. aisle, together with some remains of the old rood loft; also a brass to R. Willis, 1597, and monuments to the Somerville family. The communion rails are of Laudian style and age.

1½ m. rt., on high ground, is the village of Wormleighton, where Sir J. Spencer built a large mansion in the time of Henry VIII. One of the Spencers, who were a well-known Northampton family, married Lady Sydney (the "Sacharissa" of the poet Waller), and afterwards fell at the battle of Newbury. The house (in which Prince Rupert slept the night before Edgehill) was partially burnt by the Royalists, to prevent the other side getting hold of it and garrisoning it. It still possesses the Star Chamber, the Clock Tower, and Tudor Hall. The ch. contains memorial windows to the family of Thursby, and part of a rood loft, to which, however, there is no apparent access. N. of the village is Wormleighton Hill, round which the Oxford Canal winds to such an extent that it is almost converted into an island. The rly. soon enters the valley of the Itchen, passing 98m. l. the village of Bishops Itchington, where is a modern E.E. ch., by *Ewan Christian*, built of blue lias stone.

99½ m. HARBURY STATION. (*Omnibus to Southam*.) Harbury ch. is of E.E. date, and was restored 1873. It contains a good carved reredos and a brass of the 16th cent. to a member of the Wagstaffe family. The tower is used as a baptistery. Harbury Hall (Messrs. Hill).

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) From Harbury to Southam, 3m., crossing the Itchen river. Southam (*Hotels: Craven Arms, Bull. Pop. 1785. Omnibus to Marton Stat. Distances: Harbury, 3m.; Rugby, 12m.; Marton, 4m.; Stockton, 1m.*) is a quiet, uninteresting little market-town, situated in a wooded district on a stream that flows into the Itchen. The ch., conspicuous from its broach spire, 120 ft. in height, is of Dec. date in the chancel, but Perp. in the nave. The house in which Charles I. slept is still in existence. Southam contains a rather celebrated eye and ear infirmary, founded by a surgeon named Smith; also a R. C. convent and orphanage. There is a mineral spring of some efficacy about ¾ m. W. of the town. Though the country between this and the Northamptonshire border, which is not very far distant, is not striking in

the way of scenery, there are several villages which may be well visited from Southam. 1½m. N. is Stockton, the ch. of which belonged to the monks of Hertford, and consists of chancel, nave and aisles, and tower of the 14th cent. In the village is placed a huge boulder, weighing some 6 tons, found in one of the Lias lime quarries in the neighbourhood, of which there are several. Lime and cement-making is the staple trade here and at Southam. 3m. E. of Southam is Napton, placed at the foot of Napton Hill, a conspicuous feature in the landscape, the spires of Coventry being visible in the distance. The ch. is E.E. Near this is an extensive reservoir and a junction between the two systems of the Oxford and the Napton and Warwick Canals. Further E., 2 or 3m., are the villages of Lower and Upper Shuckburgh, and close to the latter is Shuckburgh Park (Sir G. T. Shuckburgh), which has been held by this family since Henry VI.'s time. Between Shuckburgh and Rugby is Willoughby (7m. from Rugby), the ch. of which has a monument to Dr. Clark, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1672. Grandborough ch., 2m. W., on the Leam, has a good Dec. doorway, with singular mouldings. 4m. S. of Napton is Priors Hardwick ch., which belonged to the monks of Coventry. It contains a sedile for the priest, and below it one double the size for the deacon and subdeacon, both being under recessed arched canopies.

- (b) There is a rather fine Perp. ch. at Chesterton, 3m. S.W., which formerly belonged to the Priory of Kenilworth. It has a stained window to the late Lord Willoughby de Broke, and a monument to one of the Peto or Peyto family, who built a manor-house here from designs by Inigo Jones. This house was pulled down, 1812, by Lord de Broke. Near the village is a windmill, on six circular arches, built by Sir E. Peyto, from designs by Inigo Jones, and close by it is the Roman camp, which can be readily traced. An historical incident in the history of Chesterton is that it was the hiding-place of Lord Cobham, to whom, in Henry VI.'s reign, the rector, one of the Lucys

of Charlecote, gave shelter, and nearly lost his life in consequence.

- (c) Ladbroke ch., $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt., restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, has nave with N. aisle, chancel with clerestory, tower and spire, most of it dating from Henry VI. The ch. contains a communion service given by Lady Alicia Dudley, 1638. The village itself is remarkably picturesque, with its black and white houses. Ladbroke Hall (C. R. Morewood). At $102\frac{1}{2}$ m. the Fosse road is crossed, and leaving on l. the village of Whitnash, the line reaches

$105\frac{1}{2}$ m. LEAMINGTON STATION. (*Refreshment-rooms.* *Fares from Paddington: 15s. 3d., 11s. 8d., 8s. 6d. There is, close by, a stat. of L.N.W. for line to Rugby and Coventry. (Pop. 22,976.) Hotels: Regent (on the Parade); Clarendon (Lansdowne Place); Manor House (The Avenue, near the stat.); Bath (Bath Street); Crown (High Street); Angel (Regent Street); Great Western (near the stat.). Distances: London G.W.R., $105\frac{1}{2}$ m.; L.N.W., 98m.; Birmingham, 23m.; Coventry, 9m.; Rugby, 15m.; Warwick, 2m.; Kenilworth, 5m.; Stoneleigh Abbey, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Hatton, $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.; Stratford-on-Avon, 12m.).*

Leamington Priors, so called to distinguish it from the insignificant village of Leamington Hastings, was known in early times as Lamintone, and originally belonged to Geoffrey de Clinton, the founder of Kenilworth Castle and Priory; but, being seized by the Crown in 1563, was then given to the Earls of Warwick, and subsequently to those of Aylesford, with whom the manorial rights now rest. Such is the brief summary of its early history, for in truth Leamington, in its present aspect, is essentially of modern growth, and probably, from its very near neighbourhood to the capital of the county, would never have been anything more than a village, but for the discovery of mineral waters less than a century ago, or rather their utilisation (as the waters themselves had been mentioned long before by Camden). Like Cheltenham, and other such towns, the good reputation of the waters brought visitors to Leamington; and after royalty had patronised it, in the person of Her Majesty the Queen, it became a favourite watering-place. Within late years it has also become a fashionable residence, from the attractions of a mild though somewhat relax-

ing climate, a charming country and pleasant society, excellent educational advantages, and a capital hunting neighbourhood. The result has been that Leamington has spread its wings out so far as to absorb the villages around, and almost to join Warwick, while the population has risen from 543 in 1811, to 19,248 in 1861, to 22,723 in 1871, and 22,976 in 1881. The town is situated principally on the N. bank of the Leam, sheltered by rising ground on all sides, while its great characteristic is the extent to which planting and landscape gardening have been carried through most of the streets and squares; and in this respect, giving a perennial appearance of green and fresh beauty, Leamington is almost unique. While in itself, possessing the modern establishments and *agrémens* of an inland watering-place, the close proximity of Warwick, with its deeply interesting mediævalism, gives an additional charm. The stranger will have no difficulty in making his way about, as the streets, boulevards and squares are laid out with considerable regularity, while at the same time they do not offend the eye by garishness or monotony. The oldest part of Leamington is that which lies close to the stat., and contains the fine parish ch., a cruciform building of various dates (principally Perp.), with a leaning to the continental type. It consists of nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts with aisles, an apsidal chancel, porch and a tower with spire. The interior is lavishly adorned with stained glass, the W. window being a particularly fine one of 7 lights, with transoms; subjects: scenes in the life of the Saviour. The reredos and pulpit are of Caen stone, and there are monuments to Lord Justice Willes and also to Benjamin Satchwell and William Abbot, who erected the first mineral bath in 1786. The other chs. worth notice are: St. Paul's, in Leicester Street, Holy Trinity, in Beauchamp Square (both cruciform), and St. Mark's, New Milverton, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, superseding the old chapel known as the Pepper Box. It has a particularly lofty nave, and the kneeling-desks are copied from those in the Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick. The pulpit and choir-stalls are by *Brindley* and *Farmer*. The centre of attraction is naturally the very pretty stretch of gardens on the banks of the Leam, those to the W. being the Pump-Room Gardens, at the entrance to which is the

Pump-Room, erected 1868, where the various waters, which are sulphurous, saline and chalybeate, may be tasted; while across the roadway of the Parade are the Jephson Gardens, of considerable extent, and offering many pretty views. In a Corinthian temple is a statue, by *Hollins*, of the late Dr. Jephson, the *genius loci* of Leamington; and also a granite obelisk to the late Mr. E. Willes, who was chiefly instrumental in procuring the gardens for public use. The Town Hall (for Leamington was created a municipal borough, 1875) is in High Street, as is also the Warneford Hospital, founded 1832, and accommodating 120 patients. The Free Library is in Bath Street, the Tennis Court in Bedford Street, and the College, a proprietary school, with an excellent reputation, in Binswood Avenue, to the N. of the town.

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) To Warwick (*post*). *There is a Tramway to Emscote and Warwick, the cars running every half hour (fare 2d.).*
- (b) To Lillington, 1m. on Rugby road, into the parish of which Leamington extends. The ch. (of Norman date) originally belonged to the Priory of Kenilworth. Nearly 2m. further is Cubbington ch., with some Norm. details, and a Dec. chancel and nave roof. 1½m. is Weston ch., with an embattled tower, and an effigy of Sir El. Sanders and wife, 1573. The County Reformatory is in this parish. The excursion may be varied by taking an extremely pretty road from Cubbington to Offchurch, passing Offchurch Bury, the beautifully timbered park of the Dow. Ctss. of Aylesford. The ch. is of Norm. date, and was originally built by Offa, as the (reputed) burial-place of his son Fremund.
- (c) To Whitnash, 1m. S., where is a pretty ch., with a good deal of stained glass, the side-lights of the porch being treated in this way. In the interior is a monument to the Greenaway family, and brasses to Benedict Medley and wife, 1504. He was Clerk of the Signet to Henry VII. The stone pulpit was carved by a lady amateur, Miss Bonham.

(d) To Kenilworth and Stoneleigh Abbey (p. 88).

107½m. WARWICK STATION, the tower of the venerable ch. being conspicuous on l. (*Hotels: Warwick Arms; Woolpack; Bowling Green.* Pop. 11,802. *Distances: London, 107m. (G.W.R.); Birmingham, 21m.; Leamington, 2m.; Kenilworth, 5m.; Coventry, 10m.; Stoneleigh Abbey, 5m.; Guy's Cliff, 1½m.; Sherborne, 2m.; Charlecote, 6m.; Stratford-on-Avon, 8m.*) Warwick, the capital of the county, and a parliamentary and municipal borough, is situated very charmingly in the valley of the Avon, about one mile below the confluence of the Leam. It is an old-world town, all the more refreshing from the contrast with its gay and modern neighbour of Leamington: and few places in England have so much to offer in the shape of architectural interest and historical associations. Two of the original gates, the East and West, remain, with chapels occupying the rooms above the archways, that on the W. being St. James's, which formed part of the guild of the Holy Trinity and St. George, and that on the E. being St. Peter's. The chief attraction is the fine cruciform church of St. Mary, occupying an elevated position in the centre of the town. It suffered so much from the great fire of 1694, when nearly all Warwick was laid low, that a considerable portion of it had to be and was rebuilt by *Sir W. Wilson* in the somewhat tasteless architecture of the time, though the choir, the chapterhouse, and the exquisite Beauchamp chapel escaped, and thus a building second only to Henry VII.'s chapel at Westminster was preserved to the country. The parts which were rebuilt were the nave, aisles, transepts, and west tower, and they exhibit a curious instance of the retention of the pointed form of arch in doorways, windows and pier arches, while the details are semi-classic in design. The pointed arches upon which rests the tower, 174 ft. in height, are intermixed with semi-circular covered niches. The sections of the pier arches in the nave resemble many of those of the 16th cent. The roof is divided by ribs into cellular compartments to resemble groining. The windows are of large size, but the tracery, unique of its kind, is in miserable taste, the head of each window being filled with a huge light, in form resembling a horse collar.—*Blosam.* The E. window, of E. Perp. date, is of six lights with transoms, and has an unusual feature in the small stone images of

saints with their peculiar symbols up the jambs and principal mullions. There are some fine monuments in the church, and especially the altar-tomb of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick (builder of the choir), and Catherine, his countess, d. 1370. He is habited in armour, his gauntleted left hand grasping his sword, his right clasped in his wife's hand, and his feet resting upon a bear. On the sides of the tomb are 36 small statues representing males and females alternately, but there are no inscriptions to show who they were. In the chapterhouse N. of the choir is that of Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, to whom Jas. I. gave Warwick Castle. He was one of the most accomplished men of the day and a friend of Sir Philip Sydney; and in 1628 he came to an unfortunate end, having been assassinated by his servant. The other monuments most worthy of notice are brass effigies to Thomas Beauchamp (the founder of the church) and his wife, the altar-tomb to which the effigies belonged having been destroyed in the fire; also a brass tablet to Thomas Oken and wife, he having been a wealthy mercer and a great benefactor to the town. Other persons of note were buried here, but their monuments were destroyed, probably during the civil war, when Col. Purefoy, Puritan M.P. for Warwick, made himself extremely obnoxious for his iconoclastic proceedings. Underneath the choir is a crypt on Norman arches, in which is preserved the ancient cuckingstool. On the S. side of the choir is the Beauchamp chapel, one of the most exquisite Perpendicular examples in the kingdom (*a fee of sixpence has to be paid*). Externally the visitor should notice the buttresses and their unusual projection from the wall, constructed thus, so as to counteract the outward pressure of the stone vaulted roof. The interior, which is entered by a beautiful doorway said to have been carved by an ordinary Warwick mason, is characterised by the rich and florid decoration of the Perp. style, and the lavish panel-work tracery which covers the whole of the walls from the clerestory windows down to the mouldings of the arches beneath. Opening out of the chapel on the N. is a small chamber called the oratory, remarkable for its intricate fan-tracery roof. The principal tomb in the Beauchamp chapel is of Purbeck marble, with an effigy in brass, gilt, and larger than life, of

Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in full armour, d. 1439, and in the compartments around are 14 figures of mourning relatives of noble birth connected with the house of Warwick. A long inscription runs round the edge, and the Warwick crest is curiously denoted throughout by a star for the Bear and an asterisk for the Ragged Staff. Everywhere, indeed, throughout the ch. and the town does this heraldic emblem meet the eye. It was this Earl who negotiated the treaty of marriage between Henry V. and Catherine, daughter of Charles VI. of France. Near Beauchamp's tomb is that of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, brother of him of Kenilworth, the favourite of Elizabeth, d. 1589. The tomb is surmounted by his effigy, coloured, and the sides bear coats of arms. Near the altar is the tomb and effigy of Lord Dudley's infant son, Lord Denbigh, his feet resting on a chained bear. On the N. wall is the monument of Dudley, Earl of Leycester, with coloured effigies of himself and Lettice, his (then) Countess, under a canopy, d. 1588. He it was who founded, in 1585, the Leycester Hospital, one of the most interesting features of Warwick. It is situated at the top of the hill, at the end of High Street, overlooking the Stratford road, and is a perfect example of half-timbered building. Forming a portion of it is the gateway of St. James, beneath and to the side of which passes the roadways, cut out of the New Red Sandstone. Above is the chapel of the hospital, with a fine E. window of stained glass of 5 lights, and at the W. end rises a venerable tower built by Thos. Beauchamp in Richard II.'s reign. This chapel was restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. The hospital buildings on the rt. consist of a quadrangle, having on N. the master's lodge, on the E. the kitchen, on the S. and W. the rooms for the brethren. Here was formerly a fine hall in which James I. was entertained by Sir Fulke Greville. On the gable in the front of the buildings are the armorial bearings of the Leycester family, with the motto, "Droit et Loyal." The hospital was founded by Robert, Lord Dudley, Earl of Leycester, for a master and 12 brethren, each of whom has separate apartments and 80*l.* a year. Each brother has to appear habited in the dress of the order, as prescribed by the founder, viz. a blue gown, with the silver badge of the Bear and the Ragged Staff on the left sleeve. It is worthy of note

that these badges are the identical ones worn by the first possessors, whose names are engraved on the back, together with the date 1571. The Priory of St. Sepulchre, close to the station, founded in 12th cent. by Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, is now represented by a mediæval dwelling-house (T. Lloyd), and contains a carved oak staircase, hall and dining room. It was formerly in the possession of Serjeant Puckering, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Emscote ch., a suburb on the Leamington road, was well restored, 1861, from designs by *Murray*, and has a mosaic reredos by *E. von Eyck* and *Salviati*. There is a good deal of old-fashioned domestic architecture throughout Warwick, which has preserved its mediæval character in a remarkable degree. The modern developments of the town are to be seen in the Museum of the Warwickshire Natural History Society and the Free Library. In its industrial aspect, Warwick is noted for its manufactures of art furniture. Just outside and to the S., overlooking one of the most beautiful reaches of the Avon, is the Castle (Earl of Warwick) one of the finest and most interesting show-places in England. [*Admission daily (except Sundays) from 10 to 4, though inquiry had better be made at the booksellers.*]

Warwick Castle dates its original foundation from Saxon times, like Tamworth, and although there are no remains to show what was its original construction, it is probable that there was a shell keep on the summit of the mound, and a stockaded enclosure or barbican, where the inner court now exists. From its lofty position and the fact that the river defends it on the east, it has been always a fortress of very great strength, though there are few castles which have preserved their individuality so completely during the many troublous events of the Middle Ages. It underwent its most trying time during the Civil War. "News of the defeat at Coventry and Southam had spread. Lord Brooke had gone, leaving Warwick Castle defended by Sir Edward Peyto, and Lord Northampton, having heard of his departure, marched against the Castle with the ordnance which he had just taken at Banbury. Sir Edward refused to surrender, though twice summoned. The attack commenced from the town side by Lord Compton, while his father and Lord Dunsmore threw up a battery in the

park. Sir Edward ordered all to leave the town, and a red flag floated out from Guy's Tower. The siege had now lasted for two days; but the strong massive walls of the Castle were proof against all attack. On the third day, Lord Compton placed a battery on the tower of St. Mary's ch., from whence, however, he was dislodged by the fire from the Castle, which brought down the pinnacles. The besiegers now trusted to the hope of starving the garrison out, and sat down with that intention before the Castle: then it was that Sir Edward Peyto hoisted the quaint device of a Bible and a winding-sheet, implying that as he put his faith in the one, he was not afraid of the other. At last the Cavaliers in despair raised the siege and joined the King's forces."—*Westminst. Rev.* In 1871 a great calamity happened to the Castle by the breaking out of a fire, which did enormous damage and destroyed a great many works of art. Fortunately the chief destruction was in the direction of the private apartments. On entering the porter's lodge, the visitor passes through a deep cutting of New Red Sandstone and arrives at the outer court, with a noble line of wall and battlement facing him. On rt. is Guy's Tower, on l. Cæsar's Tower, and in the centre is a massive gateway flanked by towers and defended by a portcullis. Close to and behind this is the second gateway, equally strong—and having passed through these, the beautiful inner court is entered. It is of considerable area, the apartments running the whole length of the building on the l. or E. side. Opposite is the mound, the original and most ancient part of the fortress, while on the rt. (leading to the gardens) is the Bear Tower, commenced by Richard III. The rooms which are shown to the visitor are as follows: 1. The Great Hall, a noble apartment looking on to the river, as indeed does the whole of the suite. Amongst other things, it contains many beautiful suits of armour; Guy's porridge pot, in reality an enormous garrison cooking utensil; the armour in which Lord Brooke was killed at Lichfield; the helmet, studded with brass, usually worn by Oliver Cromwell; curious weapons of different ages and countries: while at the end of a passage is seen Vandyck's celebrated painting of Charles I. on horseback, attended by the Duke of Espernon and Valette. The effect produced by the distance and the arrangement of

the light is very striking. 2. The Red Drawing Room has, amongst others, the following paintings: Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, by *Rubens*: Spinola, by *Rubens*: Snyder's wife, *Vandyck*. 3. The Cedar Room: Hiram Power's bust of the Greek Slave, Charles I., Henrietta Maria, and Prince Rupert, all by *Vandyck*: Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, by *Old Stone*. 4. Gilt Drawing Room: A Warrior, by *Moroni*: Earl of Strafford, *Vandyck*: Lord and Lady Brooke, by *Dahl*: Earl of Northumberland, by *Dobson*: Ignatius Loyola, by *Rubens*, painted for the Jesuits' College at Antwerp. There is also a superb table, known as the "Grimani" table, inlaid with all kinds of precious stones and valued at 10,000*l*. 5. State Bed Room, the furniture of which belonged to Queen Anne, whose portrait by *Kneller* is here. 6. The Boudoir: Henry VIII., by *Holbein*: Martin Luther, by *Holbein*: Duchess of Cleveland, by *Lely*: A Saint, *Andrea del Sarto*: Card Players, by *Teniers*: St. Jerome, *Rubens*: Anne Boleyn, *Holbein*. 7. The Compass Room: Laughing Boy, *Murillo*: Old Woman by lamplight, *Gerard Dow*: Maximilian I. and his sister, *Cranach*. 8. The Armoury Passage, containing a very fine collection of weapons and armour. 9. The Chapel Passage and Chapel. 10. The Dining Room. All this suite of apartments is crowded with curiosities and antiquities of the highest value, many of them of historical interest. The private apartments are not shown—neither is Cæsar's Tower, a grand tower of Norman date and style. In its dungeon was imprisoned John Smith, a Royalist soldier, from 1642–45. From Guy's Tower, the summit of which is reached by 133 steps, there is a noble view of the whole of the castle grounds, the town of Warwick, and a wide extent of country. The whole of the restoration of Warwick Castle is by *Salvin*.

The chief attraction in the gardens is the Warwick Vase, which stands on a high pedestal in the conservatory, from which the distant view over the park is delicious. The vase was discovered in Adrian's Villa at Tivoli, and brought from thence by Sir William Hamilton, who gave it to the then Earl of Warwick. It is of the finest white marble, about 7 ft. in diameter, the handles exquisitely sculptured with vine foliage.

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) The one which is most commonly taken is that to Guy's Cliff, the seat of Lady Bertie Percy, 1½ m. N. on the road to Kenilworth, and very beautifully situated, overlooking the Avon, below the promontory on which Milverton is placed. The house itself is rarely shown, and the tourist will have to content himself with the exterior and the reminiscences of the celebrated Guy, Earl of Warwick. A little beyond the lodge gate, one of the best views of Guy's Cliff is obtained from the road, looking up a very charming avenue, at the end of which the house is placed. Even before Guy himself made the locality so famous, a flavour of sanctity appears to have existed, and Dugdale considers that the holy St. Dubritius had an oratory here. John Rous, an antiquary, and chantry priest of the chapel subsequently founded at Guy's Cliff by Earl Richard Beauchamp, states that Rohand, Earl of Warwick, lived here in the time of Alfred the Great, and that he had a daughter named Phelice, with whom Guy, son of Siward of Wallingford, fell in love, but who for a long time, though really returning his affection, seemed outwardly hard-hearted. It was with the view of ingratiating himself with his mistress that Guy wandered forth into the world in quest of adventures, which were not slow in presenting themselves, and he proved in foreign countries a very Paladin in the rescue of the distressed. Returning to England, his chief feats were his encounter with the Dun Cow on Dunsmore Heath, an enormous animal with a vicious taste for toothsome young virgins, and also his great duel with Colbrand, the giant champion of the Danes, who were besieging Winchester and whom Guy, by this single conquest, compelled to retrace their steps homewards. Tired of these adventures, he repaired to Guy's Cliff, where he found a holy man occupying a cell cut out of the rock; and here he lived, going daily to receive a dole from the hands of the Countess of Warwick at her castle gate, who, in consequence of his dis-

guise and altered features, did not recognise him. Such, very briefly, is the tale of the hero who gave his name to this spot, and who, though in all probability a reality, was no doubt invested with a good deal of extravagant romance. After coming into the possession (t. Henry VIII.) of Sir Andrew Flammock, and subsequently Sir Thomas Beaufoy, Guy's Cliff was purchased by Mr. Greathead, and still remains with his descendants. It was to him that are due the building of the present house, and the arrangement of the beautiful gardens. His son, Mr. Bertie Greathead, was an artist of great talent, and the interior contains some remarkable pictures by him; and notably, one of the *Cave of Despair* from the 'Faery Queen.' In the grounds, in which the tourist is more particularly interested, is the chapel, which has been restored, and has underneath it some rooms which in early days were the chambers of the chantry priests. Here is the statue of Guy, upwards of eight feet in height, and considerably mutilated. As, however, the chapel itself was not built until the 15th cent., and the statue probably is of about the same date, its connection with Guy is a little shadowy, seeing that he had been dead some 500 years previously. Guy's Cave, which is partly natural, is more reasonably connected with the hero, and an inscription was not long ago discovered on the wall in Anglo-Saxon, which has been translated as "Cast out thou Christ from thy servant this weight," and signed "Guthi." The river front of the mansion is very beautiful, it being seated a considerable height above the Avon, on a New Red Sandstone rock, which is hollowed out into several caves, as is often the case in this formation. The best view is that obtained from the mill. A little further on (l.) is Blacklow Hill, where Edward II.'s favourite, the wretched Piers Gaveston, had his head struck off by the Earl of Warwick, whom, in his days of insolence, he had pleasantly called "the black dog." The spot is marked by Gaveston's Cross. The excursion may be prolonged

to Kenilworth, 5m. (p. 88), passing the village of Leek Wooton.

(b) To Sherborne, 2m.; Charlcote, 6m.; and Stratford-on-Avon, 10m. (p. 112) on l. bank of the river.

Leaving Warwick the railway abruptly quits the valley of the Avon and runs due W. for a short distance, gradually bearing N.W. On l. is the village of Budbrook, in the parish of which is the Military Brigade Dépôt for the county. The ch. has chancel, nave and aisles of the 13th century. In the neighbourhood is Grove Park (Lord Dormer), a fine old place, formerly surrounded by a moat. It was one of the estates given by Queen Elizabeth to her favourite Dudley, Earl of Leycester. 110½m. rt. is the Warwick Lunatic Asylum, having accommodation for 450 patients, exclusive of 200 idiots, and a little further is

112m. HATTON STATION. (*Junction with branch to Bearley (for Alcester), Stratford-on-Avon and Honeybourne.*) The village of Hatton is on high ground 1m. rt. The ch. (restored 1880) has a tower of the 15th centy., with good Perp. windows and an unusual quantity of stained glass. This was chiefly given by Dr. Parr, d. 1825, a former vicar, who had a passion for bells, a whole peal of which he likewise presented. With the view of getting as much sound out of them as possible, he had extra openings made in the belfry. ¼m. N. is Haseley ch., which also has some interesting bells, one of them with a Lombardic inscription to the Virgin. The W. window has some old stained glass—subject, the Annunciation—and there is a brass to Sir William Throckmorton, whose ancestor, Clement I., originally built the ch. Some slight remains of the old manor house exist, the modern house being Elizabethan (A. Hewlett). Huseley Hall (Mrs. Nutting). 114m. rt. is Rowington ch., Norm. date; the S. aisle being exceedingly narrow, only 3 ft. 5 in. During its restoration (by Messrs. *Bodley* and *Garner*), several traces of fresco wall-painting were revealed, but with the exception of one representing Adam and Eve, they were almost undistinguishable. The nave is lofty and dignified. There is an interesting stone pulpit and bench, and the sentences are curiously surrounded with scroll-work. The stained glass is by *Burlison* and *Grylls*.

116m. **KINGSWOOD STATION**, close to which are traces at Harborough Banks of a Roman camp enclosing about 26 acres, which was probably a supplementary station between *Præsidium* (Warwick) and *Bremenium* (Birmingham). 1½m. l. is the interesting ch. of Lapworth (p. 116). Further N. is Packwood ch. (approachable only by footpaths) of Dec. and Perp. dates, which has a steeple built in the reign of Edward IV. by Nicholas Browne, and a south porch of timber. The interior contains some glass with plain pattern glazing of the 14th cent. and monuments to the Alesbury family, whose name is perpetuated in Alesbury House (A. Van Wart). Close to the ch. is an old moated farmhouse, formerly the seat of the Featherstones. Packwood Hall is of the date of Queen Anne, and in the grounds is a labyrinth of yews of great age. 1½m. rt. of Kingswood is Baddesley Clinton ch., rebuilt in Debased style 1634. The situation of the massive tower is very peculiar, dividing the nave in two portions of unequal breadth. Baddesley Hall (Marmion Ferrers), is the old moated residence of the Ferrers, who, in the 17th centy., were somewhat famous in literature, Henry Ferrers being an antiquary and poet, d. 1638, and Edward Ferrers a dramatist, d. 1654. The Roman Catholics have a ch. at Baddesley. The Hay Wood, an extensive woodland close to the village, abounds with lilies of the valley. 1½m. further E. (approached from the Birmingham road by a beautiful avenue) is the interesting church and mansion of Wroxhall—occupying the site and part of the materials of the Priory of Wroxhall, founded 1141 by Hugh de Hatton. One of the last of the prioresses was Isabella Shakespeare, an ancestor of the poet, the last of all being Agnes Little, who, at the time of the Dissolution, was allowed a pension of £7 10s. The foundation is said to be due to the fact that Hugh de Hatton prayed for deliverance from his prison in the Holy Land, in answer to which St. Leonard, the patron saint of the parish ch., appeared to him: and on his vowing to found a Benedictine establishment, he was miraculously removed, fetters and all, and deposited in a wood at Wroxhall. A shepherd, meeting with the apparition of a living man of huge stature, was much alarmed, but was persuaded to take a message to Sir Hugh's wife, who would not believe in the identity of

her husband until persuaded by the sight of his ring, which had been broken in half before he left England. Sir Hugh fulfilled his promise, and the Priory was at once proceeded with, on the spot to which the saint had carried him. At the Dissolution it was given by Henry VIII. to the Burgoynes, and in 1713 came by purchase to Sir Christopher Wren, who occasionally resided here. It is now the residence of Mrs. Dugdale. The present house is of recent date, but incorporated with it are the remains of conventual buildings, chapter-house and refectory, which form the offices. Occupying one side of the quadrangle is the ch., consisting of chancel and nave without any intervening chancel arch. The E. window is Perp. of 5 lights, but those on the N. side are of Dec. date. At the W. end is a brick tower. A portion of the old glass remains, although partially restored by *Holland*; and the carving of the seats is worth notice. There are monuments to the Burgoynes and the Wrens, the successive owners of the Priory. The great architect himself does not appear to have done much in the way of building, though the garden walls are said to be his. If the visitor is returning to Warwick, he can meet the train at Hatton, 3m. S.

118½m. KNOWLE STATION. Knowle ch. (1½m. N.E.) is a remarkably fine example of Perpendicular, consisting of chancel, nave, with aisles and clerestory, and fine tower at the W. end. The ch. was built in Richard II.'s reign by Walter Cooke, Canon of Lincoln, who founded also a guild and a chantry. The chancel and the nave are of the same length, but the division externally is shown by the difference in the level of the parapet. The roof is depressed, so as to be quite hidden by the parapet. The chancel windows (three lights at the sides, E. window six lights) are typical examples. The carved communion table is worth notice. In Knowle parish is the Midland Counties Asylum for Idiots. 2m. further E. (crossing the Warwick and Birmingham Canal and passing Knowle Hall (G. A. Everitt) is Temple Balsall ch., a Dec. ch. which was the property of the Knights Templars, and afterwards of the Hospitallers. Like Wroxhall, the chancel, which is of considerable length, and nave are continuous, without any chancel arch, and the W. window is a fine wheel of twelve compartments. In the chancel are sedilia and a piscina.

The organ case should be noticed, as the design of the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. There are some heraldic shields in the old refectory, now a barn. In the village is a picturesque group of buildings founded as a hospital for thirty-five almswomen by Lady Katherine Leveson in 1670. Springfield (H. Boulton). From Temple Balsall it is the same distance, 3m., to Berkswell station L.N.W. (p. 32), as it is to Knowle. At 120½m. the railway crosses the Blythe and soon reaches

121½m. SOLIHULL STATION. (*Hotel: George. Pop. 3741. Distances: Warwick, 14m.; Birmingham, 7m.; Hampton-in-Arden, 4m.; Knowle, 3m.*) Solihull, a pleasant country town, has of late years become a rather favourite residence with Birmingham business men, who have spread over the country for miles round, driving out of the field all the old county families. The ch. is cruciform, and conspicuous for a long distance for its spire. A chantry was founded here in 1301 by William de Ocklingsells, after whom the manor became vested in the Bermingham family, one of whom sold it to a Bishop of Ely for 100 marks of silver. It consists of nave, aisles, transepts, tower of three stages, and a spire of later date. The nave and S. aisle are of late Perp. date, the N. aisle rather earlier, and the transepts about the middle of the 14th cent. Notice in the N. aisle the wrought-iron gates of the porch. There is no clerestory, and the nave arches are unusually lofty, which, together with the great length of the ch., gives an impression of dignity. At the E. end of the N. aisle are traces of a reredos and piscina, and in the S. aisle is a stone retablo with panelling which once contained effigies of the Apostles. The S. transept was formerly the chapel of St. Mary, and the N., which has some 15th cent. stained glass, that of St. Katherine. The lower lights of the E. window are modern, but in the tracery are remains of the coloured centres of the old grisaille. On the N. side of the altar are some vestiges of an Easter sepulchre. Adjoining the chancel on the N. is a chapel of two storeys, the lower one of which, with a groined roof, was probably a chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. This ch. contains brasses to William Hill, his two wives and fourteen children (17th cent.), a monument to William Hawes (17th cent.), with long acrostic on his name, also to the Holbecks, the Palmers of Olton, &c. A

former rector of Solihull was John Feckenham, Dean of St. Paul's and Abbot of Westminster 1585, the last mitred abbot in England. There is a good Grammar School here, founded t. Richard II., also a R. C. seminary. Malvern Hall (F. E. Williams). The neighbourhood of Solihull is rich in old houses, such as Ravenshaw, Berry Hall (J. Gillott), Wharley Hall, Henwood Hall, all lying from 2 to 4m. E. in the direction of Hampton-in-Arden; while 1m. S., close to the railway, is Hillfield Hall, one of those old moated Elizabethan manor-houses which are characteristic of this portion of the country. The projecting porch of the house was probably made to complete the ground-plan with the letter E, after the fashion of the times.

123½m. **OLTON STATION**, where are traces of the old castle of the Limesies.

125m. **ACOCKS GREEN STATION**, where a considerable residential population has grown up. The pleasant pastoral scenery now begins to give place to manufacturing surroundings, and the railway passes through the uninviting districts of Bordesley and Deritend to

128m. **BIRMINGHAM** (*Snow Hill Station. Hotel: Great Western. For other hotels see next route.*)

Railway Excursions.

V. BIRMINGHAM TO KING'S NORTON BY WEST SUBURBAN RAILWAY.

BIRMINGHAM. (*Fares from London (Euston), 17s. 4d., 13s. 6d., 9s. 5d.; from Paddington the same. Central Stations in New Street (L.N.W. and M.R.), and at Snow Hill (G.W.R.); West Suburban Station in Granville St. Hotels—1st class: Queen's, at New St. Stat.; Great Western, at Snow Hill Stat.; Hen and Chickens; Midland (both in New St.); Grand, in Colmore Row (very near G.W.R.). 2nd class: Royal, Temple Row; White Horse, Congreve St.; Acorn, Temple St. Refreshment Rooms at New St. Stat. (very expensive) and Snow Hill Stat. Restaurants: Midland Hotel, Grand Hotel, Gt. Western Hotel, Spittle's (Temple St.), Benson's (Union Passage), &c. Tramways, see p. 71. Distances: London (L.N.W.), 113m, (G.W.R.) 129½m.; Coventry, 18m.; Wolverhampton, 14m.; Walsall, 8m.; Lichfield, 16m.; Sutton Coldfield, 8m.; Derby,*

41m.; Nuneaton, 19m.; Leicester, 40m.; Leamington, 27m.; Rugby, 30m.; Solihull, 7m.; Gloucester, 56m.; Worcester, 28m.; Tamworth, 18m.; Coleshill, 9m.; Whitacre Jn., 10½m.; Redditch, 16½m.; Stratford-on-Avon, 22m.).

Birmingham, though not the legal capital of the county of Warwick, holds a far higher position as the industrial capital of the Midland Counties, and the metropolis *par excellence* for all England of the hardware trades, its reputation under this head extending to every quarter of the globe, civilised or savage. It is a British typical manufacturing town, like Manchester, Leeds, or Bradford; and in one respect more so than these, for, whereas the towns just mentioned are the centres of a large textile district, Birmingham contains trades which are peculiar to it, and are scarcely to be found elsewhere. In other ways it is a representative town, for there is no population in Great Britain which is more active, not to say restless, in matters social, educational, and above all political. Under this latter category has grown up a school which has identified itself with much that is extreme in the political history of the country.

Although the general aspect of Birmingham does not savour of antiquity, there is no doubt that it can claim a very respectable parentage. Considering that it is situated on the Icknield road, and very near to Watling Street, that ran from London to Chester, it is not unlikely that there might have been a Roman station here; and indeed some antiquarians (and among them Stukeley) have considered that it was the ancient Breminium. This, however, is mere guess, and rests upon little more than the fact that Roman foundations have been met with, and that iron scoriæ have been found at Aston, a discovery quite in keeping with the known ability of the Romans in iron working and smelting.

The Saxon name of the town was Brumwycheam, which, according to Dugdale, was the freehold of one Uluuine in the time of Edward the Confessor; and it is at any rate a singular instance of the tenacity of orthography, that in modern days a name which was almost præhistoric should have been revived to become (in the shape of Brummagem) a local corruption and slang term. At the same time, the name in Domesday Book is spelt "Berningeha," so that both spelling and early history are involved in a good deal of obscurity. In the

time of Edward III. (14th cent.) Birmingham first appeared on the map, and about the same date the chapel of St. John at Deritend (one of the Birmingham quarters) was erected under the influence of Wycliff's teaching. The Lords of the Manor in those days were the De Berminghams, who resided here in their castle until the time of Henry VIII., when that family disappeared, together with their old residence. The only traces of the latter exist in the name of Moat Lane, a little to the S. St. Martin's ch. in the Bull-ring. The true history of Birmingham as an industrial town dates from the 16th centy., when both Leland (1538) and Camden (1576) visited it, and described it even then as the headquarters of the iron trade. The former speaks of the smiths and cutlers, "the lorimers that make bittes," and the nailers, all of these artizans attracted by the "sea cole" from Staffordshire. There seems, however, to be some anachronism in this statement, as charcoal smelting was in vogue in Leland's time, David Dudley not having as yet arisen to introduce his invention of smelting iron with pit coal. Camden also mentions "Breminham, full of inhabitants, and resounding with hammers and anvils, for the most of them are smiths." From that period until now, Birmingham has steadily progressed in industrial importance; and although certain individual trades have migrated and some have died out, others of a similar class have sprung up, so that the special character of the town has never altered. Generally speaking, Birmingham has been singularly free from the ups and downs to which most places were liable in the middle ages, probably for the reason that it stood a little off the principal highways, but more likely that the inhabitants were too busy to attend to anything but their own work. The occasion of the battle of Evesham (which, taking place in the next county, was probably considered a local event) was almost the only time in which the Birmingham folk appeared spontaneously in the field, though later on they figured most uncomfortably as defendants against Prince Rupert, who attacked and destroyed great part of the town in revenge for their having taken the part of the Parliamentarians against the King. Apart from these few incidents, the career of Birmingham has been

one of unexampled prosperity. "During the 17th and 18th centuries the progress of her manufactures was simply marvellous. The town seemed to have the power of attracting within its boundaries artisans of every trade and every degree of skill. It awarded almost perfect freedom to all who chose to come—Dissenters and Quakers, and heretics of all sorts, were welcomed and undisturbed as far as their religious observances were concerned. No trades' unions, no trades' guilds, no companies existed, and every man was free to come and go, to found or to follow or to leave a trade, just as he chose. The system of apprenticeship was only partially known, and Birmingham became emphatically the town of free trade, where practically no restrictions, commercial or municipal, were known."—*Timmins*.

Birmingham is situated very nearly at the centre of England, in the water basin and not far from the banks of the Tame River, which rises near King's Norton, and flows outside and to the east of the town on its way north to Tamworth. Two other small streams flow into it—the Rea, which intersects the south-east portion, and the Hockley Brook, the north. The geological formation of the ground is New Red Sandstone, in which artesian wells are sunk, and yield a good supply of water of excellent quality. Partly to this, and partly to the open situation, Birmingham owes an exceptionally good sanitary reputation, particularly when it is remembered that many of the industries of which it is the seat are of a nature decidedly detrimental to health. The annual rate of mortality per 1000 persons living is 22·2, London standing at 23·3, Liverpool at 27·1, and Manchester at 26·9. For a town of such large size and prosperous condition, there are very few public buildings of note, and most of what there are, are grouped together at the end of New Street and Colmore Row.

New Street, running in a direction from S.E. to N.W., is not only the geographical centre of Birmingham, but the centre also to which the rank and fashion converge, containing numbers of excellent shops, and, at its north-westerly end, the chief public buildings. In it (approached by a short and handsome street, Stephenson Place) is the central station of the London and North-Western and Midland Railways, with a long Italian façade, and a roof (principally of glass) 1100 feet in

length, which, prior to the erection of such stations as Charing Cross and King's Cross, was held in much respect. There are few busier stations in the kingdom, and it is worth while to watch the perpetual arrival and departure of trains from the gallery that runs across it. Stephenson Place contains also (rt.) the Exchange, a fine group of buildings by *Holmes*, in Continental Gothic style. The lower range is occupied by shops, while the floors above contain large suites of business and assembly rooms. The statue close by is by *Thomas*, to the memory of Thomas Attwood, d. 1856, the founder of the Birmingham Political Union. The chief attraction of New Street is the Grammar School of King Edward VI., founded from the endowment of the Guild of the Holy Cross, which has for many years enjoyed a high reputation as a public school. The present school was built 1833, from designs by *Sir C. Barry*, and is quadrangular in shape, and of Perp. details. The school-rooms, which, previous to the new scheme, were divided into classical and commercial, are handsome, and in the board-room is a bust of Edward VI., by *Schumacker*. In 1878, the constitution of the old Grammar School was changed, and it ceased to be free, while at the same time the divisions of commercial and classical were abolished. It now consists of a High and a Middle School for boys, with a Lower Middle School for boys and girls, these latter including four elementary schools in other parts of the town; and the number of scholars upon the whole foundation is about 1560. It will be remembered that the first Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Prince Lee, was head master here. In Paradise Street, near the Town Hall, is the Queen's College, founded 1828 by Mr. Sands Cox, which for many of the earliest years of its existence had a troublous time, but which now takes rank as a successful school of instruction for Medical and Theological students. The chapel has an altarpiece in silver by *Flaxman*, subject, "The Shield of Faith;" also a stained glass window, by *Pemberton*, of "Christ Healing the Sick." In the dining hall are portraits of the founder and others, together with a painting by *David* of "The Return of the Prodigal Son."

In the same street is the Midland Institute, which comprises a general and an industrial section, both very

well supported. The buildings were erected from designs by *E. Barry*, in 1855, but much enlarged of recent years. In 1879 the numbers attending were: in Gen. Dept., 1831; Industrial, 2617; classes for women and girls, 338; classes for laws of health, 108; total, 4894. Within a stone's throw of the Institute is the new College of Science, founded by the late Sir Josiah Mason, and opened 1880, a princely gift to the town in which he spent most of his life, for the purpose of providing a good technical education, and especially in the natural sciences as applied to mining and manufactures. A noble range of red brick buildings, has just been completed in Edmund Street, at the back of the Town Hall, from designs by *Cousins*, comprising every facility for the working of such an institution. The College, which cost £60,000 was opened with an inaugural address from Prof. Huxley. Sir Josiah Mason, to whom Birmingham owes not only this great boon, but also the Orphanage at Erdington (p. 79), was the son of a journeyman carpenter at Kidderminster, who came to Birmingham at 21 years of age, and after trying his hand at several trades, he took to gilt toy making, eking out his living by selling tea-cakes when times were hard. He speedily obtained a name for cleverness in making split rings for gilding, and soon acquired a little business. One day, seeing a steel pen in a shop-window, he bought it for three shillings and improved upon it, taking it for inspection to Mr. Perry, who had commenced a manufacture of school articles. By him Mason was supplied with capital to make new pens, and the business flourished to such an extent, that in 1876, when it passed to a limited company, the rate of production was from forty to fifty thousand gross a week, or about a million of pens per day. In 1842 Mason joined the firm of Elkington, bringing in £30,000 of capital; and riches rolled in to a fabulous extent, the great embarrassment of himself and his wife being to know what to do with them. The good use to which the worthy couple put their money is their best monument. In a commanding situation, at the junction of several streets, is the Town Hall, a very large and somewhat unwieldy classic building, erected 1834 (though not finished until 1850), from designs by *Hanson* and *Welch*. The general features are copied

from the Temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome, and consist of rows of detached lofty columns forming an arcade and resting upon a substantial basement. The interior hall is 150 ft. in length, and will hold 2500 persons. It contains an organ by *Hill*, which for many years, when large organs were less common than they are now, was considered one of the finest of the kingdom, possessing four manuals and 53 sounding stops. For the benefit of those who are fond of statistics, it may be mentioned that the principal metal pipe is over 35 feet in length, and nearly 6 ft. in circumference; also that the trackers, if laid out in a straight line, would reach for five miles. Although it is excelled in size by other more recent instruments, it is a very good organ, which no visitor to Birmingham should neglect to hear. This is easy, as free performances are given on one evening in the week. The Birmingham musical festivals, held triennially, are celebrated for their excellence, and it is worth note that the 'Elijah' was first produced here under the leadership of Mendelssohn himself in 1846. The hall contains his bust. The contiguous block of buildings is that of the Council House in Ann Street, a very handsome range of Corinthian architecture, from designs by *Thomason*, 1874, in which the Corporation and Municipal and Borough officials have their headquarters. The elevations are striking, and are decorated with much ornamental sculpture, the central one representing Britannia reviewing Birmingham manufactures. In Ratcliffe Place is the new building of the Central Free Library, the former one having been unfortunately destroyed by a fire in 1879, the more regrettable, seeing that it contained some collections of almost priceless value. It possessed 7000 volumes of Shakespearean literature, "including 336 editions of Shakespeare's complete works in English, 17 in French, 58 in German, 3 in Danish, 1 in Dutch, 1 in Bohemian, 3 in Italian, 4 in Polish, 2 in Russian, 1 in Spanish, 1 in Swedish; with separate plays in Frisian, Icelandic, Hebrew, Servian, Wallachian, Welsh and Tamil."—*Langford*. The four branch libraries are at Constitution Hill, Deritend, Gosta Green, and Adderley Park. Opposite the Town Hall is the Post-office, in the large hall of which is a statue of Sir Rowland Hill by *Hollins*. The majority of the statues of Birmingham are to be found grouped together by

the Town Hall, and include that of the Prince Consort, by *Foley* (whose plaster models of the statues of Goldsmith and Burke are in the Council House); Sir Robert Peel, a fine bronze statue, by *Hollins*, on a pedestal of polished granite; Watt, the pioneer of steam power, by *Munro*, his hand resting upon the cylinder of an engine; Dr. Priestley, by *Williamson*, the chemist and discoverer of oxygen, who was driven from Birmingham in 1791 by the mob, after his house was sacked and his chemical apparatus destroyed: George Dawson, d. 1876, a well-known speaker and lecturer, by *Woolner*. There is also a memorial fountain recently erected in honour of Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary of the Board of Trade, with a medallion by *Woolner*. The other statues are those of Attwood (p. 63); and of Nelson in bronze, by *Westmacott*. This is placed in front of St. Martin's ch. in the Bull-ring, which lies to the S. of New Street at its eastern end. At the Five Ways is a monument to Sturge, the philanthropist and Apostle of Peace, by *Thomas*. St. Martin's, the mother ch. of Birmingham, is by far the finest and most interesting of the Birmingham churches, which, as a rule, have not very much to boast of. A chantry is mentioned as existing in St. Martin's (t. Edward III.) and there was also a foundation of the Guild of the Holy Cross, the endowments of which were given by Edward VI. to found the Grammar School. "The character of this Gild was peculiar to Birmingham. . . . It was not a craft Gild, nor a Gild merchant, for it neither engaged in trade, nor did it concern itself with the customs or laws of labour. It was not a town Gild in the strict sense of that name, for, while it undertook specified public duties for the benefit of the community, it did not exercise any general authority in local government. It was to some extent a religious association, since it maintained a chantry in the parish ch. of St. Martin, not specially for the purpose of having mass said for the souls of deceased members, but for the ministration of the sacraments and services to them while living."—*Bunce's History of the Corporation of Birmingham*. Hutton, the old historian of the town, speaks of a restoration in 1786, and this was partially repeated in 1849 by *Hardwick*, who directed his attention principally to the tower and spire. In 1872-5, the ch. was completely rebuilt from designs by

Chatwin, at a cost of 32,000*l.* It is of Dec. date, and consists of chancel with aisles, nave with aisles and clerestory, transepts, S. porch, tower and spire at the N.W. angle, the arches of the tower communicating with the body of the ch., whereas previously it was quite shut off from it. The open timber roof with carved hammer beams is by *Brindley and Farmer*. There is a stained glass E. window by *Hardman*, with subjects from the Parables, &c.; in the N. transept memorial windows to Mrs. Ryland, designed by *Morris*, and also to Mr. Gough: the subject of the West window being the Resurrection. In the chancel are four ancient tombstones, believed to be those of the Lords of Birmingham. The next most prominent ch. is that of St. Philip, occupying a fine elevated position between Colmore Row and Temple Row (N. of New Street). It is of Italian (Doric) architecture, built early in the last century by *Archer*, a pupil of Sir C. Wren, and it underwent a partial restoration in 1864. A good theological library is attached to this ch., founded by the first rector in 1815. Christ Church, facing the Council House, was founded as a free ch. in 1803, George III. contributing £1000 towards it, and for many years it was noted for the custom of separating the sexes during service, being at least half a century before the age in this respect. It contains a carved mahogany altar-piece, and is, taking it altogether, one of the most successful examples of uncompromising ugliness. St. George's (Gt. Hampton Row, N. of Snow Hill Stat.) was built in 1820 from designs by *Rickman*, and is Dec., with a good tower. St. Peter's, Dale End, is also by *Rickman*, the portico being a copy of the choragic monument of Lysicrates. In the same style, and by the same architect, is the ch. of St. Thomas, Bath Row, a kind of landmark from its elevated situation. It has an Ionic tower 130 ft. in height, and a window—subject: "St. Thomas's Unbelief." Very near this last is the Queen's Hospital, founded 1841, but almost rebuilt and enlarged 1871. Bishop Ryder's ch. in Gem Street, is *in memoriam* to the Diocesan prelate of that name, d. 1836. St. Mary's, in St. Mary's Square, the quarter of the gun and pistol makers, has an E. window of the Transfiguration, and St. Paul's, round which the jewellers dwell, has one of the Conversion of St. Paul, by *Egginton*. This ch. was

erected by *Goodwin*, in imitation of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. St. Nicholas (Lower Tower Street) is principally due to the Elkington firm, and has a good reredos and a window of the Twelve Apostles. Holy Trinity, Bordesley, is Perp. in style, and has an altar-piece after *Murillo*—"Christ at the Pool of Bethesda," together with a good stained rose window. This ch. has recently obtained a notoriety in consequence of the ministrations of the vicar, the Rev. R. W. Enraght, and the legal proceedings in connection with them. St. Augustine's, Hagley Road, is of good modern Gothic, and has a spire 178 ft. in height. St. Mark's, King Edward's Road, is by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. St. John's, Deritend, is interesting, as occupying the site of Leland's "propper chappell at the end of Distey," and which subsequently was the first in the kingdom in which Wycliffe's doctrines were preached. Of Nonconformist churches, the most striking are, that of the Independents in Francis Road, Edgbaston, from designs by *Thomason*, and the Wycliffe Baptist Chapel in the Bristol Road, by *Cranston*, conspicuous for its lofty spire. In Bath St. is the fine R. C. Cathedral of St. Chad, one of the late *Mr. Pugin's* works, the entrance of which is beautifully and lavishly decorated. As there is no clerestory, the arches between nave and aisles rise the whole height, giving an effect of great loftiness. There is a profusion of stained glass, representing amongst others, the life of St. Thomas of Canterbury, the Immaculate Conception, the histories of St. James, St. Thomas, and St. Patrick: while at the high altar is a shrine, said to contain the bones of St. Chad, the patron saint of the Diocese of Lichfield. The visitor will also notice the elaborate choir screen, the pulpit brought from Louvain, with carving representing St. Jerome, St. Gregory, St. Augustine, and St. Ambrose; also the stations of Our Lord upon the wall, by an Antwerp artist. Underneath the ch. is a series of crypts, and adjoining it is the Bishop's residence, considered one of *Pugin's* best works.

In places of recreation, Birmingham may favourably compare with other towns. There are two theatres, the Theatre Royal, in New Street, where Macready first appeared as Romeo, 1810, during his father's lease-ship; and the Prince of Wales's Theatre, in Broad

Street, besides two or three concert-halls of the usual type. In New Street is also the *locale* of the Royal Society of Artists, whose exhibitions are periodically held; and in Paradise Street is the Small Arms Museum, illustrative of the gun trade, and containing a most interesting collection of firearms from the 15th cent. to the present time. The public parks are numerous, particularly when it is remembered that the first park in Birmingham was only opened 25 years ago. Adderley Park, Saltley, was the gift of Lord Norton, and consists of 10 acres, and there are a free library and museum in connection with it. Cannon Hill Park, of 57 acres, lies about 2m. S. of New Street, on the Pershore Road, and was the gift, amongst many others, of Miss Ryland, of Barford Hill, Warwick. The grounds are very prettily laid out by *Gibson*, of Battersea Park. Calthorpe Park, Pershore Road, the gift of Lord Calthorpe, is 31 acres in extent. Small Heath Park, Coventry Road, of 42 acres, was also the gift of Miss Ryland, 1879. Highgate Park, Moseley Road (S.), is near the line of the Midland to Gloucester, and is 8 acres. Summerfield Park, Dudley Road (N.W.), is 12 acres; and the Burbury Street Recreation Ground (N.) is 4 acres. The most beautiful and interesting of all is, however, Aston Park, of 31 acres, about 2m. to the N.E. of New Street, which combines historical associations with its modern life in no common degree. Aston Hall was the fine seat, in the 16th cent., of the Holte family, the house having been built by Sir Thomas Holte, of Duddeston (in the parish of Aston), in 1618, and here he lived in peace until the commencement of the Civil War, when Sir Thomas, being a strong Royalist, entertained the King on his march from Shrewsbury to Banbury. For this he incurred great odium, having to defend his house from an attack made upon it by the Birmingham people, who were Parliamentarians. After a gallant defence of nearly three days the fortress was surrendered to the enemy, he himself imprisoned, and his estate confiscated. He died in 1654, and the Holte family gradually declined in importance until 1782, when the estates passed from their hands altogether; and, if we are to believe Hutton, the representative of the Holtes became a working blacksmith. Then the Legge family had possession for some years, during which time the re-

mainder of the estates was dispersed, only the Hall and Park being left. To these succeeded Mr. Watt, the son of the great Watt, during whose residence Her Majesty the Queen, when a child, visited the Hall. In 1856 an effort was made by the Town Council to secure Aston Park as a public recreation ground, and, this being unsuccessful, a Limited Company was formed to carry out the same idea. In 1858 the Queen and Prince Albert visited Birmingham, and opened the Park; but the Company not proving a success, fresh overtures were made to the Council, and it was finally taken possession of in 1864. The chief attraction of Aston Park is, of course, the Hall, a noble mansion of Jacobæan style, the interior of which contains a gallery, 136 ft. in length, oak panelled, and with richly decorated ceiling and chimneypiece. Here also is a beautiful walnut cabinet, presented by King Charles after his visit. In the "Queen's Room" is an interesting collection of foreign birds, while another contains the artistic publications of the Arundel Society. The Birmingham Art Gallery and Small Arms Museum have a temporary abiding place here. The grounds are well timbered and very charming, while, separated by a road, are the Lower Grounds, which have a skating-rink; an aquarium, with 19 tanks, the arches over them being decorated with stained glass, having aquatic subjects; an exceedingly pretty theatre, roomy and well ventilated, and all the usual *agréments* of public pleasure grounds. Very near the entrance of the Park is an hotel (*Holte Arms*) and the fine old parish ch., the spire of which, of the time of Henry VI., is conspicuous for a long distance. It was partially restored some time back by *Pugin*, but very recently has been almost rebuilt (except the tower) and enlarged by *Chatwin*. The west entrance is Perp., but has an E.E. arcade. The interior contains in the N. aisle the altar tomb of the Holtes (William H. and his wife Joanna, 1514); in the S. aisle the monument of the Bagot family; in the choir and the E. chapel those of the Ardens (15th cent.), Erdingtons, and Devereux. At the E. end of the chancel aisle is a stained glass window to Letitia Dearden, by *Egginton*. In the chancel are also some stalls, said to have been brought here from St. Margaret's, Leicester, and a portion of the old cross in the ch.-yd., with a sculpture of the Crucifixion.

There are some old almshouses in the village, founded by Sir Thomas Holte, but Birmingham is fast monopolising and altering the pretty country character of Aston. It has, nevertheless, a separate existence, with a Local Board and Free Library of its own. A handsome block of Public Buildings was erected 1880, at a cost of £8000. Saltley, which lies E. of Birmingham, near the L.N.W., contains the Adderley Park and the Training College for Schoolmasters for the Dioceses of Worcester, Lichfield and Hereford, which has accommodation for 100 students, and practising schools for 400 boys. The buildings (opened 1874) are from designs by *Ferrey*. At Moseley, about 3m. S. of the town, on Midl. Rly., is the Spring Hill College for training ministers for the Congregational ch., removed hither from Spring Hill in 1856, a very handsome (Dec.) building, by *James*. The library is a noble room, and should be seen for the sake of the carving of the chimneypieces. At Erdington, 4m. N.E., on the Sutton Coldfield road, are the Almshouses and Orphanage founded by Sir Josiah Mason (p. 79).

In the mention of the open spaces in and around Birmingham the Botanic Gardens should not be omitted, lying W. of the town, between it and Harborne (*admission 6d., except on Monday, when it is 2d.*).

Some of the suburbs have been already noticed, and before describing the others it will be well to append a short table of the modes by which they are to be reached.

Aston (p. 69), by train from New Street (L.N.W.) to Aston stat. (a short mile from the Hall), or to Witton stat., the nearest to the Lower Grounds; also by tramway and omnibus.

Soho (*post*), by train from Snow Hill (G.W.R.), or from New Street (L.N.W.).

Handsworth (p. 73), by train from Snow Hill (G.W.R.), or omnibus.

Smethwick (p. 73), by train from New Street (L.N.W.).

Edgbaston, by train from New Street to Monument Lane, 1½m.; tramway.

Bordesley and Small Heath, by train from Snow Hill (G.W.R.).

Harborne (p. 78), by train from New Street (L.N.W.); omnibus.

Moseley (p. 99), by train from New Street (Midl. R.); omnibus.

King's Heath and *King's Norton*, by train from New Street (Midl. R.).

Erdington (p. 78), by train from New Street (L.N.W.).

Saltley and *Adderley Park* (p. 71), by train from New Street (L.N.W.); omnibus.

Castle Bromwich, by train from New Street (Midl. R.).

Edgbaston lies about 2m. S.W., passing through Broad Street and the Five Ways, where is the statue of Sturge, the philanthropist, by *Thomas*. Edgbaston ch. contains no architectural details of interest, but it is exceedingly picturesque, the greater portion of it, and particularly the tower, being completely covered with ivy. The Park is of considerable extent, and has a pool of 27 acres, said to be still a resort of wild fowl.

Handsworth and *Soho*, lying 2 or 3m. N.W. of the town, have, independently of their manufacturing establishments, a special interest. There is no place in the industrial history of this country so familiar as that of Soho, for it is intimately associated with the names of Boulton, Watt, and Murdoch, the former of whom may be said to be almost the father of Birmingham manufactures. In 1774, James Watt, who had discovered those improvements on Newcomen's engine which entitled him to be called the real inventor, removed from Glasgow to Birmingham and joined his fortunes with Matthew Boulton, who had been previously a manufacturer of gilt toys at Snow Hill, and had made himself celebrated for the excellence of his wares, in the shape of buckles, clasps, and chains. Nothing could have been more felicitous than the union of two such men as Boulton and Watt—the latter being the inventor and the mechanic, shy, nervous, and patient, while the former had the commercial knowledge, united to unlimited energy and boldness. Almost everything associated with metals came from Soho. "Not only steam engines and pumps, plated wares, buckles, ormolu wares, candelabra, vases, and every variety of ornamental goods were produced, but the genius of James Watt, assisted by some remarks of Priestly, had perfected the now common copying machine. Under Boulton's management, Soho absorbed all the best talent of the land, and even Flaxman, Chantrey, and

Wyon were engaged to provide designs for the multifarious manufactures of the works. The genius of Boulton foresaw the mechanical triumphs of modern days."—*Timmins*. Soho was also celebrated for its manufacture of coinage by the same firm, still carried on at the Soho Foundry, which was established, 1797, by Matthew Boulton and James Watt, on account of the difficulty of procuring castings from Wales. In 1848, on the death of James Watt, the son of the great engineer (who lived at Aston Hall), the original famous works at Soho were abandoned, and the machinery removed to the foundry. In the same year Matthew Boulton's name (he having died some time previously) was withdrawn, and the firm of the Soho foundry has been ever since James Watt & Co. Murdoch was superintendent of engines in Cornwall, erected by the Soho firm, and he was one of the very first to demonstrate the feasibility of employing gas, having lighted up his house at Redruth, and in 1802, on the occasion of the Peace of Amiens, illuminated the façade of Soho House, where Boulton lived, with gas, together with the whole length of the manufactory. Another name, associated with Soho, is that of Francis Egginton, the painter of stained glass, who, if report is true, appears to have been a discoverer of something very like the daguerreotype process. Handsworth parish ch. has in the chapel, S. of the chancel, a statue to Watt, by *Chantrey*, and in the chancel is a fine bust of Boulton, by *Flaxman*, and a medallion portrait of Murdoch, also by *Chantrey*. The ch. itself is Dec. and has a good pinnacled tower in a rather singular position at the E. end of the S. aisle. Handsworth also contains a very pretty chapel in the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, and a Theological College for Wesleyans, founded 1880. Like Aston, the Public Offices, in which is the Free Library, form a handsome modern block of buildings. A little to the N.W. of Handsworth is Smethwick (*Stat. Stour Valley Rly.*), a large and populous manufacturing town, with an independent life of its own. Here are situated the Soho Foundry, which took the place of the old Soho Works, and a number of the most important factories in the Midlands. The Birmingham industries are after all the most important and interesting subject in connection with the town; but

though volumes might be and have been written about them, it is exceedingly difficult to do more, in the pages of a Handbook, than enumerate the leading branches. The visitor must remember that, as a rule, industrial establishments are not thrown open to the public, nor is it to be expected that they should be; though, on the other hand, a proper introduction is all that is necessary to ensure a ready welcome. The trades, which may be considered as specialties of the town and neighbourhood, are as follows, in alphabetical order:—Bedsteads made of iron and brass, which thirty years ago only employed five makers, but now at least forty-five. Bolts and nuts are turned out in prodigious quantities, as may be gathered from the fact that a covered railway waggon takes 300 bolts alone, and one firm, the Patent Nut and Bolt Company, of the Stour Valley Works, produces 100 tons per day. Brass-founding is a very important trade, not only for the actual smelting and founding, but on account of the many subsidiary trades brought into action, such as brass-drawing, tube-making, brass-turning, spinning, chasing, burnishing, polishing, &c., while the articles of locks and bells, gas-fitting and wire-drawing, may be said to employ, with the main brass trade, at least 10,000 hands. Bits, bridles, and saddlery work, for which the "lorimers who make bits" were celebrated in Henry VIII.'s time, has rather migrated to the adjoining towns of Walsall and Bloxwich, though a good deal is still carried on in Birmingham. Buttons are a very characteristic out-put, not only in metal, but in pearl, vegetable ivory, glass, bone, wood and other materials. Very few trades have played such an important part in Birmingham history, or have undergone such mutations. Die-sinking is a specialty, requiring, not so many hands, as highly skilled labour. This branch was first introduced by Boulton, at Soho. Electro-plating is a most important trade, holding an intermediate position between chemical and mechanical appliances. In a house, such as Elkington's, every detail is carried on, from the most minute up to reproductions of the most elaborate art specimens, examples of which are familiar to everybody at South Kensington and the various exhibitions. On the other hand, a great deal of work, such as chasing, grooving, burnishing and gilding, is carried on by small masters, there being

few trades in which there is so much subdivision of labour. The same may be said of the gilt toy and jewellery trade, which includes a vast number of small articles, the object of the manufacturer being to produce at a cheap rate imitations of more costly ornaments, by means of a very slight film of gold applied by electro-gilding. By the term "toys," however, is not meant so much actual playthings, as trinkets, such as polished steel and gilt knicknacks, chains, rings, chatelaines, &c.; and it is from the vast number of them that are produced, that caused Birmingham to be called by Edward Burke, "the toyshop of Europe." Glass is largely made in the suburbs of Birmingham, and particularly flint-glass, but the chief specialty is the lighthouse glass made by Messrs. Chance at their works at Spon Lane. Stained glass for church windows is a branch for which Birmingham has long been celebrated. The gun trade, which has had its headquarters here since the 17th cent., has a good deal altered in character of late years. Formerly each little portion of a gun had its separate artizan, who did nothing else, and the weapon had to pass through no less than forty-eight different divisions of labour. Of late, however, the introduction of machinery and the interchangeable system has done away with many of the specialists, and a large small-arms factory has been established at Small Heath, Bordesley, for the purpose of carrying out this system. Every barrel made in Birmingham is sent to be tested at the Proof House, in Banbury Street, so that Birmingham guns, cheaply as they are produced, are very different now to what they were in 1802, which cost 7*s.* 6*d.* and were proved by water. If the barrels were capable of holding this without its oozing out at the pores, they were considered sufficiently serviceable.

Hollow ware comprises the multifarious articles of cast-iron, tinned and enamelled goods. It is worthy of note that the artizans employed on these are of a particularly well-to-do and provident character. Japanning is associated in a great measure with the last trade, although Bilston and Wolverhampton may perhaps be considered greater centres of the japan trade than Birmingham. The same may be said of locks and keys, which are curiously localised in the adjoining Staffordshire towns, each town being noted for a particular kind

of lock. Papier-mâché and, in connection with it, pearl cutting, is a trade that for many years was almost peculiar to Birmingham. The papier-mâché itself is of a very simple character, being practically only sheets of paper pasted together, or paper pulp formed in moulds and pressed, though on this foundation any amount of decoration is lavished. Steel pens have made more fortunes, and contributed more to the prosperity of the town than almost any article, though, as we have seen from the life of Sir Josiah Mason (p. 64), that it is a comparatively modern trade. The names of Gillott, Perry, Mason and others are household words all over the world, and the number of steel pens annually turned out from the Birmingham shops can only be reckoned by billions. Pins form another branch of "unconsidered trifles" for which Birmingham has a great reputation, although pin-making is carried on in several other large towns. The introduction of very ingenious machinery has very much minimised the amount of labour. The screw trade is one that essentially belongs to Birmingham, and is one that may claim the honour of giving rise to a Cabinet Minister (Mr. Chamberlain). Tool making and that of machinery in general is carried on to an enormous extent, and Birmingham tools and implements are known favourably throughout the globe, although of late years they have had to meet a terrible competition at the hands of American rivals, who produce them quite as well and more cheaply. The following brief list will be of use to the visitor in showing him the locale of a very few leading houses in each of the trades named.

Glass works: Chance, Smethwick and Spon Lane; F. & C. Ostler, Broad Street.

Machinery: Tangye & Co. (Lim.), Cornwall Works, Soho; Soho Foundry.

Steel Pens: Gillott & Sons, Graham Street; Perry & Co., Lancaster Street; Brandauer & Co., New John Street West; Mitchell, New Hall Street.

Electro-plating and Gold and Silver work: Elkington & Co., New Hall Street.

Bell-founding: Blews & Co., Bartholomew Street.

Pin-making: Taylor & Co., George Street; Phipson & Son, Mott Street.

Button-making: Green, Cadbury & Richards, Great Hampton Street; Watts & Manton, Olisold Street.

Gilt Toy and Chain-making: Aston & Son, Regent Place; Bragg, Vittoria Street.

Papier-mâché: M'Callum & Hodson, Summer Row.

Brass-founding and Bedstead making: Winfield & Sons, Cambridge Street; Peyton & Peyton, Bordesley.

Stained Glass: Hardman & Co., New Hall Street; Jones & Willis, Temple Row.

It is no wonder, with all these industrial advantages, that the population of Birmingham has grown so rapidly. At the beginning of the last century it numbered 15,032; at the beginning of the present it was 73,670; since which time each decade has shown amazing growth, viz. :—

1811	..	..	..	85,755
1821	..	..	..	106,722
1831	..	..	..	146,986
1841	..	..	..	182,922
1851	..	..	..	232,841
1861	..	..	..	295,955
1871	(with Aston)			377,833
1881	..	..	..	456,221

“To look back over the period of forty years—from the development of corporate life in Birmingham as it now exists, to the feeble beginning of it in 1838, is like a feat of the imagination, so vast is the progress, so marvellous the contrast. When the Corporation first came into being, Birmingham was a town of about 180,000 inhabitants, with an annual property (rateable value) of something over £400,000. Now it has a population of 400,000, with a rateable value of more than £1,400,000. Then the total number of burgesses was under 6000, qualified by a £10 rental: now the division of a single ward equals this number, and the total, under the qualifications of household suffrage, rises to 60,000.”

—*Bunce.*

The West Suburban Railway affords a ready access to the suburbs on the southern side of Birmingham. Starting from

GRANVILLE STREET STATION (a little out of Broad Street) the line follows the Worcester Canal and runs to

$\frac{3}{4}$ m. CHURCH ROAD STATION, not far from Edgbaston church.

1½m. SOMERSET ROAD STATION. A short distance (rt.) lies the little town of Harborne, lying just outside the Borough boundary, although it may be practically considered a Birmingham suburb. It stands high, and its healthiness is popularly expressed by the local name of "Hungry" Harborne. The ch. (rebuilt 1867) is cruciform, and has a stained glass memorial window to David Cox, the artist, a Birmingham man who resided here, d. 1859. Another notable resident was Elihu Burritt, the American consul. The Harborne and Edgbaston Institute was opened 1878 by Mr. Irving. The return from Harborne to Birmingham may be made by a direct (L.N.W.) line, passing the stations of Hagley Road, Rotton Park (close to the canal reservoir), and Icknield Port Road, near which it joins the Stour Valley Railway.

2½m. SELLY OAK STATION. Here are large ship's sheathing manufactories; and the village contains a series of Cottage Homes for ladies who are reduced in circumstances.

3½m. STIRCHLEY AND BOURNVILLE STATION.

4½m. LIFFORD STATION. At

5½m. KING'S NORTON STATION, a junction is made with the main Midland line to Gloucester (p. 99).

Railway Excursions.

VI. BIRMINGHAM TO SUTTON COLDFIELD AND LICHFIELD (L.N.W.).

Quitting the New Street Station and passing through the tunnel, the old line to Perry Barr and Wolverhampton is followed, passing

1m. VAUXHALL STATION, and

3m. ASTON STATION (*Junction with the Wolverhampton line*). Aston ch. occupies a picturesque position (l.).

4m. GRAVELLY HILL STATION, where the township of Birmingham begins to give place to the country.

5m. ERDINGTON STATION. The family of Erdington, whose tombs are to be seen in Aston ch., and who indeed added to the S. aisle, were the owners of this manor, t. Edward II., the first Sir Thomas de E. having obtained

it by marriage from the Norman barons who first had possession, for the consideration of a pair of spurs. Notwithstanding its antiquity, it is but a suburban place, the parish ch. being modern. E. of the village, near the old Chester road, are the fine group of almshouses and orphanage built 1860 by the late Sir Josiah Mason at a cost of £60,000, besides endowment to the amount of £200,000. The two buildings are distinct, the almshouses, which accommodate 30 women, being at the corner of Sheep Street, and the orphanage, which holds 150 boys, 300 girls and 50 infants, being a little off the Chester road. The R. C. ch. at Erdington has a spire 164 ft. in height and much stained glass: and in the parish, although some distance W., is Oscott, a celebrated R. C. college, finely placed on a hillside. The late Earl of Shrewsbury was a great benefactor to Oscott, and presented several valuable paintings of the Old Masters. Near Sir J. Mason's Orphanage is the old house of Pipe Hayes. Erdington has modern associations with the name of the late Sir Rowland Hill, the author of the Penny Postage system, who in his early days was a master in his father's school here.

6m. CHESTER ROAD STATION.

7m. WILD GREEN STATION. The terminus of the L.N.W. branch is reached at

8m. SUTTON COLDFIELD STATION. (*There is a Station, M.R., very near, and also one at Sutton Park. Hotels: Royal (splendidly situated), Swan. Pop. 8582. Distances: Birmingham, 8m.; Lichfield, 8m.; Walsall, 6m.; Castle Bromwich, 5½m.*) The little corporate town of Sutton Coldfield may be said to date from Henry VIII.'s time, when Vesey, Bishop of Exeter, who had been successively Dean of Windsor and Wolverhampton, showed many marks of favour to his old birthplace, adding to the ch. and founding a Grammar School, the scholars of which were obliged, until the Reformation, to sing the *De Profundis* each morning. The worthy ecclesiastic himself was probably the longest-lived Bishop that England ever possessed, his death occurring at the age of 103. The ch., which is partly E.E. and partly late Perp., contains Bp. Vesey's altar-tomb and effigy in his robes (the only Bishop who is buried in Warwickshire); also a fine old oak screen and font of Norm. date. A new aisle was added to the ch., 1880, at the cost of the

rector. The constitution of the corporation, which dates from Henry VIII., is peculiar, at the head being a warden and twenty-four burgesses; and, as by the Bishop's kindness the manor was entirely transferred to the corporation, Sutton Coldfield enjoys an unique and very remarkable freedom from rates—a fact which in itself ought to make it a favourite place of residence. The estate, as left by Bp. Vesey, brings in about £3000 a year, which is partly used for educational purposes. The chief and very unique attraction of this neighbourhood, however, is Sutton Park, an extensive enclosure of 3500 acres, lying to the W. and S. of the town and about 8m. in circumference. Although that portion close to Sutton is slightly cockneyfied with a Crystal Palace and dancing grounds, the park is wild and unspoilt, and contains such diversity of scenery, that the visitor can scarcely imagine that Birmingham and the Black Country are in such near proximity. There is a great deal of woodland, principally oak and holly, and several picturesque sheets of water, such as Blackroot Pool, quite Highland in character, Powell's, Windley and Bracebridge Pools, the latter, of 35 acres, lying N. of the Midland Railway, which runs through the park and a good deal spoils it. Parallel with the western border is the Roman road of the Icknield Street, upon which, though outside and to the S.W. of the park, is a tump called the King's Standing, from whence Charles I. is said to have reviewed the troops when he visited Aston. A little S. of this is the King's Vale, a short distance from which is the R. C. College of Oscott (p. 79.)

Railway Excursions.

VII. BIRMINGHAM TO CASTLE BROMWICH, SUTTON COLDFIELD AND WALSALL (M.R.).

This is a prettier route than the last, the railway being that of the main line to Derby as far as Water Orton, whence the branch to Sutton goes N.W.

2m. SALTLEY STATION (p. 71). On l. is the suburb of Nechells. At 3m. l. the Rea flows into the Tame, the valley of which river is now entered.

5½m. CASTLE BROMWICH STATION. The village,

which is of a most respectable antiquity, lies on high ground (rt.) overlooking the valleys of the Tame and the Cole, which flows to the S. Though there are now no traces of a castle, history states that there was one here, belonging to Henricus, a Norman baron, usually known as Henricus de Chastel de Bromwyz. Later on the manor came to the Ferrers of Chartley, and then to the Devereux, and finally by sale to the Bridgmans, which family, in the person of Lord Newport, still possesses Castle Bromwich Hall, which is of Elizabethan style, with gardens laid out in Dutch fashion. There is but little to see in the place. The ch. is of Italian architecture and very plain: opposite to it is the Castle Hill, the site of Henricus's fortress. 3m. S.E. is Kinghurst, a good example of a moated grange; and there is another at Sheldon Hall, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. The railway soon makes an abrupt curve l. and runs N.W., crossing the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal to

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. PENNS STATION, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. rt. of which is a curious old house, called Peddymore Hall, the seat of the Ardens, defended by a double moat. Henry VIII. is said to have kept hounds here. There is another interesting old house at New Hall, 1m. N. of Penns Station.

11m. SUTTON COLDFIELD STATION (p. 79), a little beyond which is also a station at

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SUTTON PARK STATION. For the next 2m. the line runs through the Park, enabling the traveller to gain a rapid view of the very charming scenery. On rt. is Four Oaks Park, now made into a racing ground; and further on is Bracebridge Pool of 35 acres, while on l. is Blackroot Pool of 15 acres. Immediately outside it crosses the Icknield Street and enters the county of Stafford at

13 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. STREETLY STATION, the name betokening the neighbourhood of the Roman road. Streetly lies just outside the Park boundary, and from hence the ground rises rapidly, the highest point being the fir-crowned knoll of Barr Beacon, 750 ft., which commands wide and beautiful views. From Streetly the rly. crosses part of this high ground to

ALDRIDGE STATION, near which is Little Aston, the seat of the Jervis family, and enters the Black Country district at

17m. **WALSALL STATION.** (*Junction with L.N.W. to Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire line to Cannock and Lichfield. Hotel: George.*)

Railway Excursions.

VIII. BIRMINGHAM TO WATER ORTON, NUNEATON AND HINCKLEY.

By this route a convenient communication is obtained between Birmingham, Leicestershire, and the Eastern Counties generally. For rly. as far as Castle Bromwich, see p. 72.

6½m. **WATER ORTON STATION.** (*Junction with branch to Sutton Coldfield and Walsall.*) The bridge over the Tame was built by Vesey, Bp. of Exeter, (see p. 79) t. Henry VIII. The ch. is modern, of E.E. style, with a good spire, though the old building is still used for burials. 1½m. l. the village of Curdworth, (ch. of Norm. date). Curdworth, formerly the seat of the Ardens, was the scene of a passage of arms between the Royalists, under Sir Robert Willis, and the Parliamentarians, who were routed. Further N. is Wishaw, the ch. of which contains mons. to the Hacket family, 17th cent. Moxhull Hall (P. G. Noel).

8m. **FORGE MILL STATION.** On l. is Lea Marston village and Hams Hall (Rt. Hon. Lord Norton). (Omnibus to Coleshill 1½m. rt., p. 85.) The Cole is crossed a little before reaching

9½ **WHITACRE STATION.** (*Junction with M. R. to Hampton (rt.) and Tamworth (l.).*) The village of Nether Whitacre lies 1m. l. The ch. (restored 1870) has a N. chapel, and a monument to C. Jennens, the founder of the Free School here. Near

11m. **SHUSTOKE STATION** is Over Whitacre, the ch. Italian in style and apsidal. Shustoke ch. is of Dec. date, and contains the altar tomb of Sir William Dugdale (p. 85). Shustoke House (R. P. Croxall).

13½m. **ARLEY STATION.** The ch. (restored 1872), prettily situated 1m. l., has an embattled tower and a monument of Jacobæan date to Jane Andrew. 1½m. N. is Ansley, the ch. of E. Norm. date, with a good N. door and a massive tower with buttresses and pinnacles.

The Manor House (J. Ludford-Astley). Ansley Hall, now in the possession of a colliery company, is situated in extremely pretty grounds, which once formed part of the possessions of Lady Godiva. There are remains of a hermitage associated with the memory of poet Warton. The whole of the neighbourhood is of great natural beauty, although somewhat spoilt by the utilitarian encroachments of coal and ironstone pits. The pedestrian, who has time, cannot do better than walk across Bentley Park to Merevale, and thus to Atherstone (p. 36). By diverging about 1m. to rt., the village of Hartshill may be visited. The situation is charming, placed at the termination of a plateau overlooking a wooded foreground, and, in the distance, a wide sweep of hills, extending northwards into Derbyshire, and S. as far as Weedon, in Northamptonshire. It is said that 45 churches are visible from this spot. The ch. is modern, with an ultra-Norman doorway, but there are traces of the Norman castle or fortified residence built 1125, by Hugh Hadreshull. The old hall forms part of some farm buildings, but a portion of the Norman chapel remains; and the boundary walls are pierced with eyelets for the cross-bows. There is also an ancient house in the village called The Chapel, which was probably connected with the Abbey at Merevale, or the Priory of Nuneaton. Hartshill is a busy place in industrial matters; cotton-weaving is carried on pretty largely, while in the neighbourhood are the Hartshill millstone-grit quarries, celebrated for their excellent road metal-ling. There are some tumuli between this and Oldbury, and also traces of a Roman encampment close to the modern mansion of Oldbury Hall (W. Cox). The nuns of Polesworth had a chapel near this. The whole of the country between Hartshill, Bentley, and Merevale, is of great beauty, and is well worth exploration. Hartshill claims to be the birth-place of Michael Drayton, 1563, poet, and author of the 'Polyolbion,' by which graphic work he is best known.

1½m. S. of Arley Stat. is Fillongley, on the Coventry road, where there appears to have been a castle, in very early times, belonging to the Hastings, of which all that is left are some blocks of masonry in a picturesque dell. In the parish are the Birmingham Municipal Industrial Schools, which accommodate 150 boys. A

portion of an old cross exists in the churchyard. The ch. is of Dec. date. Fillongley House (Hon. H. A. Adderley). 2m. S. is Corley, on very high ground; the ch., though chiefly E. Dec., contains some E. Norm. details in the arches and windows. One of the bells dates from 1350. There is a rather fine ch. at Astley, 3m. S.E. of Arley, restored by Penrose 1876. It was formerly cruciform, with a spire so conspicuous, that it used to be called "The Lantern of Arden," but has now only chancel and nave, with an embattled tower. It contains a monument of a Duke of Suffolk and his wife—also a brass of 15th centy. to a lady. Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and father of Lady Jane Grey, resided close by at Astley Castle (Lord C. F. Bruce), a fortified house of the latter part of the 13th centy., where are still preserved the writing table and chair used by the Duke when in hiding after Wyatt's insurrection.

17m. STOCKINGFORD STATION, 2m. rt. of which is Arbury Park, the beautiful seat of the Newdegate family. It occupies the site of a monastery, founded by Ralph de Sudley, in the reign of Henry II., which, at the Dissolution, came to the Brandons of Astley. Subsequently it was sold to Chief Justice Anderson, who built a large mansion with the materials, and in the 17th centy. it was purchased by the Newdegates, one of whom, Sir R. Newdegate, was a great Virtuoso, and established the Newdegate Prize at Oxford.

19m. NUNEATON STATION (p. 35). (*There is also a Stat. L.N.W., Trent Valley line. Hotels: Newdegate Arms; Bull.*)

Railway Excursions.

IX. HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN TO COLESHILL AND TAMWORTH (M.R.).

By this short line a junction is made between the L.N.W. and the Midland system to Derby. Quitting

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN STATION the rly. runs due N. up the valley of the Blythe, passing 2m. (rt.) Packington, the beautiful park of the Earl of Aylesford. The mansion, Italian in character, was built in the 17th cent., by Sir Chas. Fisher. In the park is the ch. of Great Packington, while that of Little Packington is close to the rly., on l.

4½m. COLESHILL STATION. The little town of Coleshill (*Inn: Station*) stands well on rising ground ½m. l. of rly., not far from the junction of the Cole with the Blythe. In the centre is the ch., conspicuous for its lofty tower and octagonal spire. It is of Dec. date, consisting of chancel, nave and aisles, and was restored by the Digby family, 1859. It formerly belonged to the nunnery of Merkyate, in Bedfordshire. In the interior are recumbent figures of two knights in armour (Clintons), who held the property in Henry VII.'s time; also altar tombs to the Digbys, and brasses of the 16th cent. to Alice Digby and Sir J. Fenton, a vicar. It must be remembered that in those days the title of Sir was equivalent to "Reverend." The font is Norm., and has a sculpture of the Byzantine school, of our Saviour on the rood, with the Virgin and St. John in one compartment, the four Evangelists in the other. The market-place contains a relic of the good old times, in the shape of pillory, stocks and whipping-post. A little to W. of the town is Coleshill Park (J. Digby Digby). The manor was granted to the Digby family after the fall of its first owner, Simon de Montfort. Near the station (rt.) is Maxstoke Castle (Major Dilke), a very interesting specimen of a fortified mansion, which was built by the Clintons (14th cent.), whose effigies are in Coleshill ch. It afterwards came to the Duke of Buckingham, and in Elizabeth's time to the Dilkes, who have ever since held it. A moat surrounds the building, which is quadrangular (a tower at each corner), and entered by a gateway, flanked on either side by tall hexagonal towers, and having the arms of the Duke of Buckingham on the scrollwork. William Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, also founded a priory at Maxstoke for Canons Regular of the Augustine Order. A gateway and tower are the principal portions that remain, and in the adjoining farmhouse are some panelled ceilings with the arms of the abbots. The priory ruins and Maxstoke ch. are about 1½m. S. of the castle. From Coleshill the line continues N., passing rt. Maxstoke Park, and l. Blythe Hall (Mrs. Dugdale), the old residence of Sir William Dugdale, where he compiled his 'Antiquities of Warwickshire.' He was born 1605, the only son of John Dugdale, of Shustoke. He was highly esteemed by Charles I., and was with that unfortunate monarch at

Edge Hill, afterwards residing at Oxford, until the surrender of that garrison to the Parliament in 1646.

6½m. WHITACRE STATION (*Junction with Birmingham, Nuneaton and Leicester line*, p. 82). On l., on banks of the Tame, is Hams Hall (Rt. Hon. Lord Norton). The ch. has monuments to the Adderleys. On rt. is Nether Whitacre.

9½m. KINGSBURY STATION, near which is an old fortified manor-house of the Bracebridge family, supposed to have been on the site of the place where the Saxon Bertalphus held his Court. On l., 2m., is Middleton, the old seat of the Willoughby family, one of whom, Sir Hugh Willoughby, was commodore-in-chief of Sir Sebastian Cabot's expedition for the exploration of unknown lands. In point of fact, he was the first Arctic discoverer. The country now becomes uninteresting, and dotted with collieries. 12m. l. the village of Dost-hill.

13m. WILNECOTE STATION. The boundary of the county is reached at

15m. TAMWORTH STATION. (*There is also a stat. on the Trent Valley, L.N.W., immediately beneath the Midl. stat.* *Hotels: Castle; White Horse. Pop. 4888. Distances: London, 110m.; Rugby, 27m.; Nuneaton, 13m.; Birmingham, 17½m.; Atherstone, 8m.; Lichfield, 7m.*) Tamworth, although a somewhat dirty town, is prettily placed on the bank of the Tame, which is crossed by a bridge of six arches. It is conspicuous for a considerable distance, by its venerable ch. tower, and its castle, which, perched on a knoll, 130 ft. above the river, dominates the town and neighbourhood. Such a position as this was sufficient to ensure the erection of a fortress from the earliest times, and we therefore find that Ethelfleda did not neglect the opportunity. The principal interest of Tamworth Castle is, that some of her work actually exists in the present building, the curtain wall containing examples of Saxon herring-bone masonry. The noble and massive circular keep, which is the principal existing portion, is inhabited, and is not shown except by special application. It contains a room in which Mary Queen of Scots passed her time when a prisoner here.

Notwithstanding its great strength and its unrivalled situation, Tamworth Castle does not appear to have taken any very leading part in the history of the

country. After the Conquest it was given to the Marmions, "the Lords of Tamworth tower and town," whom Sir W. Scott has for ever made famous in his ringing lays. To them succeeded Alexander de Neville, after whom the Ferrars family gained possession in the time of Henry VI. It now belongs to the Marquis of Townshend.

The ch. is very interesting, consisting of nave and aisles with clerestory, transepts, chancel, and a most venerable tower of three stages, the red sandstone of which it is built showing ragged outlines. It is remarkable for having a double staircase, the one winding over the other; and notice should be taken of the outside passage over the W. doorway, by which one of these staircases enters the tower. The ch. has been for the last 12 years under process of restoration by *Champneys*, and it is to be hoped that funds will not fail to complete the necessary work. Under the tower is a monument to one of the Ferrars family, the tower itself being separated from the nave by a W. window with beautiful tracery, but no glass. The nave has four bays, being divided by pointed arches from the aisles; but the arches of the transepts are fine examples of E. Norm., with dogtooth moulding. The clerestory (as far as the windows are concerned) is continued to the very end of the chancel, the three lights nearest the E. end being of stained glass, as are also those beneath them and the E. window, a very large undivided light—subject, the Company of the Apostles. In the chancel (N. wall) are effigies of a knight and lady, with 12 compartments underneath, containing mutilated figures; also two recumbent stone effigies. All these are under a beautiful double canopy. The S. transept (which contains the organ) is of two bays, but the N. of only one, separated from the aisle by a fine circular arch. The other objects of interest in Tamworth are the Town Hall, the lower portion supported by Norm. arches, and the statue of the late Premier, Sir Robert Peel, who represented Tamworth for over 20 years. Drayton Bassett (Sir R. Peel, Bart.) is about 2m. on the Staffordshire side of the town.

In the rather remote corner of Warwickshire that runs up towards Ashby-de-la-Zouch, there are one or two localities worth notice. In Newton Regis ch. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ m.

from Polesworth) there is a trifoliated slab under an arch in the chancel, containing the bust of a priest with missal, breviary and chalice. Above are angels waving thuribles, and below are acolytes. The date is of the 14th cent. Seckington, 4m. from Polesworth, was, according to the Saxon chronicles, the seat of Ethelbald, Cuthred and Beorned. There is an entrenched camp here, which was probably of British or Saxon origin, and utilised by the Romans—for, according to Camden, this was the site of the Roman Secandunum. The camp is circular, and on its N. side is a tumulus, as at Brinklow. Seckington was the village from which sprang, in Henry VIII.'s time, the ancestors of George Washington.

Railway Excursions.

X. LEAMINGTON TO KENILWORTH, COVENTRY AND NUNEATON (L.N.W.).

The roads from Leamington to Coventry, short as is the distance, are full of beauty, and historical associations; and whichever route the visitor chooses, he will be amply repaid. Quitting the Avenue Station at Leamington, the first stoppage is made at

1m. **MILVERTON STATION**, the nearest to Emscote and Warwick. The village of Milverton is 1m. further, beautifully placed, overlooking a bend of the Avon, nearly opposite Guy's Cliff. The river is crossed here. On l. the village of Leek Wootton and Woodcote, the seat of the Wise family. On rt. is Chesford Bridge over the Avon, and higher up, the village of Ashow. The ch. has a service of communion plate given to it by Alicia, Lady Dudley, 1638.

4½m. **KENILWORTH STATION**. The little town of Kenilworth (*Hotels: King's Arms, Castle, Bowling Green.* There is a short road from the station to the Castle in about 1m.) has of late years become a rather favourite place of residence, and has much increased in size. It is a long straggling place, occupying the two sides of a valley, through which a small stream flows to join the Sowe, the ruins of the Castle being in a commanding position, at the head of the valley, and to the W. On the northern side is the ch., close to which are the scanty remains (consisting of a gateway and some walls) of the Priory

of Kenilworth, founded for Augustine canons by Geoffrey de Clinton, Chamberlain and Treasurer to Henry I. The ch. itself has some interesting details, of Norm., E.E. and Dec. styles. It consists of chancel, nave and aisles, N. transept and a W. octagonal tower with low spire. The Norm. doorway is singular "from the square bordure or ornamental fascia, which extends horizontally above the semicircular head of the doorway and returns at right angles down to the ground. This bordure is covered with a star-like ornament, and in each spandril is a patera—a curious relic of a more ancient edifice than the church itself, which is of the 14th centy."—*Bloxam*. The chief attraction is, of course, the matchless ruin of Kenilworth Castle, with which all the world has been familiarised through the genius of Sir Walter Scott, who has shown in that most pathetic of stories, the grandeurs of Kenilworth during the Elizabethan age. Compared with the descriptions which have come down to us of that gorgeous era, the previous history of Kenilworth is rather meagre. The original builder of the Castle was the same Geoffrey de Clinton who founded the Priory—a man of mean birth, who, nevertheless by his talents, raised himself to the position of Henry I.'s Lord Chamberlain, Treasurer and Chief Justice. In the next reign but one, that of Henry II., it was taken and garrisoned by the king, whose eldest son had rebelled. Clinton's grandson lived here for a short time, but in King John's reign it was again used as a royal residence. Under the governorship of Simon de Montfort in the time of Henry III., the Castle assumed a foretaste of its magnificent proportions, the walls on the S. side being extended and entirely rebuilt. Sir Simon having been involved in the rebellion of the Barons, placed Sir John Giffard in custody of the Castle, and was himself slain soon afterwards at the Battle of Evesham. One of the chief incidents in the history of Kenilworth was the great siege, in which De Montfort's eldest son held it successfully against the king's forces for upwards of six months, though it was finally surrendered. In Edward I.'s time, mention is made of the Pool which partly surrounded the Castle, half a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in breadth, with two mills standing upon it, and in 1279 a great tournament was held, in which a

hundred knights, with their ladies, took part. Edward II. was prisoner here, when the news was brought that he was deposed in favour of his son. In the 14th centy., by the marriage of Blanche, daughter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, Kenilworth came into the possession of John of Gaunt, who added largely to the buildings then existing, and especially that part of the Castle still known by his name. On the accession of Henry Bolingbroke, it again fell to the Crown, and remained a royal property until Elizabeth bestowed it on her favourite, Dudley, Earl of Leycester, who still further added to the buildings, and greatly enlarged the chase, spending upwards of £60,000—an enormous sum for those times. After Dudley's death, it went by bequest, first to his brother, the Earl of Warwick, and in reversion to his son, Sir Robert Dudley. He, failing to prove his legitimacy, the castle was seized by the crown and given to Prince Henry, son of James I. The action of the Star Chamber appears to have been very arbitrary, and on the slightest of grounds, for the Prince offered to pay £14,000 for the property, although the unfortunate owner never received more than £3000. Kenilworth suffered, like most other places, during the civil war, and was, in fact, so maltreated by Cromwell, as to make it uninhabitable. At the Restoration, it was granted to Lord Hyde, in whose descendants, the Earls of Clarendon, it still remains. [*The ruins are open daily, except Sundays, admission 3d.*] To facilitate the better understanding of the general arrangement of the castle, the following description of the ground plan should be studied, as given by Brittan. It is sufficiently clear to stand for the present day, it being premised that the castle was protected on the east, south, and west by a lake, and on the north by a wall. The great gate-tower or barbican was on the north side, erected by Leycester, "equal in extent, [and superior in architecture, to the baronial castle of many a northern chief." It is now used as a modern residence, the present entrance being close beside it. The salient point of the buildings within the inner court is Cæsar's Tower, a donjon with enormously thick walls (16 feet). Though it does not seem clear as to who erected this keep, it is certainly the oldest portion of the castle, and perhaps obtained its name from its resemblance to that portion of the Tower of London.

Cæsar's Tower was probably of three or four stories, and had a large central apartment. The kitchens were situated to the west of this, and beyond them was another tower, of which the lowest floor remains. At the N.W. and S.W. angles were projecting turreted towers with loopholes. Here appears to have been the tower called Merlin's by Sir Walter Scott, which had been formerly used as a prison; and in this was (according to the novelist) the chamber of the unfortunate Amy Robsart, when she paid her visit to Kenilworth during the Queen's stay. The real truth of the matter was, that the whole of Sir Walter Scott's wonderful creation was a pure fiction. Leycester's first wife was not of that name. She never visited Kenilworth, and indeed had died some thirteen years previous to the events that took place when Queen Elizabeth was there. At right angles to this block, running S., is the Great Hall, forming part of Lancaster's buildings—a splendid apartment, with lofty pointed two-light windows, which in their time must have had very good tracery. The tracery of the E. window is particularly beautiful. The panel-work on the sides of the windows, and also of the fireplaces, should be noticed. The apartment on the ground floor beneath must have been vaulted throughout, as it contains the shafts and columns of the arches springing from the walls. It is lighted on the E. side by very narrow windows in the thickness of the wall, with a singular flight of steps up to each of them. Running east from the Hall, and looking S., were successively the buildings known as Whitehall, the Presence Chamber, and the Privy Chamber; the eastern face of the castle being formed by the more recent portion erected by Leycester, and known by the name of Leycester's Buildings. They consist of three or four stories, with three rooms in each, lighted for the most part by square mullioned windows. The upper ward, which was surrounded by these various towers and buildings, was entered by a fortified gateway adjoining Cæsar's Tower, which has long since disappeared, and there is nothing at present to mark the division between the inner and outer courts, except a difference in the ground level. The following was the arrangement of the outer walls and defences. From the great gateway ran the north wall westward, at the end of it being

the Swan Tower, overlooking the Pool, and forming a bastion at the N.W. angle. On the E. side of the gateway ran a shorter wall to the N.E. angle, which was defended by Lunn's Tower. It then turned south to the Water Tower, which may be seen amongst the offices and stables belonging to the Gate Tower. These two last guarded the castle from any approach from the east. The Water Tower was supplied from the head of the Pool by sluices and an underground vaulted passage. From hence ran a wall across a strip of land to the S.E. corner, defended by Mortimer's Tower, from which ran a raised terrace to the southern entrance, at the Gallery Tower. This was called the Tilt-Yard, and a most graphic description of it is given by Sir Walter Scott, which need not here be reproduced. At the time of Queen Elizabeth's visit, the Tilt-Yard was the chief approach to the castle, and the terrace thus served a double purpose of a road and a dam for the Pool, which guarded the fortress on the west, south and east. It was this spot which was the scene of the water pageant which welcomed the Queen on her arrival, in which tritons, nereids, and other fabulous deities floated on a raft to represent an island, from the heronry where it had been concealed, greeting her Majesty with a "well penned meeter." It is a matter of difficulty to trace any part of the Tilt-Yard at the present time, as Mortimer's Tower lies outside the castle enclosure, and access to it from this side is blocked off. The first impression of the visitor on reaching the ruins of the inner court is a feeling of surprise at the small space which they appear to cover, in comparison with the enormous area of the various descriptions of Kenilworth in the olden time. This feeling, however, disappears when a more minute examination is made; and the view from the top of Merlin's Tower gives the best idea of the extent of the walls, and the situation of the pool which defended them on the east and south.

The industries of Kenilworth are principally confined to tanning, the presence of the establishment being made known by a chimney which for height will rival any in Lancashire. In the village near the church, art decoration in the shape of glass-etching will be noticed.

3m. E. of Kenilworth is Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of Lord Leigh, most exquisitely situated in a wooded

park, the largest part of which is watered by the Avon, which, near the village, is joined by the Sowe. The Abbey was founded by Henry II. in 1154, for Cistercian monks, but was suppressed in Henry VIII.'s time, Thomas Tutbury being at that time the last Abbot. By that monarch it was granted to the Duke of Suffolk, from whose heirs the property was purchased by Sir Thomas Leigh, Alderman and Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Elizabeth. The chief rooms in the interior are the corridor, wainscoted with the old oak; the hall; the chapel, which has an altarpiece of The Descent from the Cross, after Michael Angelo; the dining-room, saloon, first and second drawing-rooms and library. Amongst the paintings are—Herodias receiving John the Baptist's Head, *Guido*; Erasmus, by *Holbein*; Charles I., *Vandyck*; Sir Thomas Leigh, *Holbein*; Dame Alice Leigh, *Holbein*; the King of Bohemia, *Honthorst*; Woodman's Return, *Gainsborough*; Earl of Strafford and his Secretary, *Vandyck*; Lord and Lady Leigh, *Kneller*, &c. It was this last who built the mansion, which has been the seat of the family ever since. In 1839 the then representative was raised to the peerage. There is but little remaining of the old monastic buildings erected by Robt. de Hockele, 16th Abbot, except the picturesque gateway, which shows the royal arms of Henry II., and some Norman arches and pillars in the offices. The ancient crypt is used as a brew-house. A very beautiful drive runs from the Abbey through the Park, crossing the Avon at Stare Bridge (built by *Rennie*), and then over a ridge of high ground known as Motslow Hill, which, like Knightlow, was held in high esteem in Saxon days. On the N. bank of the Sowe is the village of Stoneleigh, in which is a remarkably interesting Norm. church, and a group of almshouses erected by Alicia, wife of Sir Thomas Leigh. The north door of the ch. has its tympanum carved with quaint fancies in the shape of serpents and fishes, and so far has been undisturbed, though the wall on each side (of Norman construction) has been altered by the insertion in the 14th centy. of Dec. windows instead of Norman lights. The chancel arch is an exquisite example, being characterised by round, zigzag, double cone and billet moulding, while the jambs are very richly covered with ornaments. In the chancel is a fine

altar tomb to Lady Alicia Dudley, daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh. There are few churches, indeed, which afford to the student of Norman architecture so many examples of the moulding of the period. There are several monuments to various members of the Leigh family; also the sepulchral effigy of a priest.

From Stoneleigh the l. bank of the Sowe may be followed to Baginton, where is an E.E. ch. with monuments to the Bagots, 1400. Close by is Baginton Hall (W. Bromley Davenport).

The Sowe should now be crossed to (2m.) Stivichall (p. 31), and in 2m. further Coventry is reached.

The traveller by rail from Kenilworth loses the best scenery in the neighbourhood.

9½m. COVENTRY STATION. (*Junction with main line from London to Birmingham. Hotels: Queen's; King's Head; Craven Arms, p. 19.*) The line to Nuneaton winds round the western side of the town, affording good views of the triple spires. The district between Coventry and Nuneaton is more or less of an industrial nature, in which coal-mining and brick-making share the interests of the population with woollen weaving and elastic web making.

12½m. FOLESHILL STATION. The village, some little distance on rt., formed part of the lands originally owned by Lady Godiva.

14m. EXHALL STATION, in the middle of a colliery district. The ch. (l.) has an embattled tower, and contains an altar tomb to J. Phillips, 1716.

16m. BEDWORTH STATION. This neighbourhood is the most active part of the Warwickshire coalfield, from whence a good deal of coal is sent to London. Ribbon-weaving is carried on here, as also at

18½m. CHILVERS COTON STATION. Between this and Bedworth is Griff, the birthplace, 1743, of Beighton, the antiquary, and the illustrator of Dugdale's 'Warwickshire.'

19½m. NUNEATON STATION. (*Junction with Trent Valley line; also with Mid. Rly. to Birmingham and Leicester and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, p. 35.*)

Railway Excursions.

XI. EVESHAM TO ALCESTER, REDDITCH AND BIRMINGHAM (M.R.).

By this route, which follows the borders of the counties of Warwick and Worcester, a very pretty and comparatively unvisited district is accessible. Warwickshire is entered near

5½m. SALFORD PRIORS STATION. The ch., of Dec. date, has a window with flamboyant tracery, and in the interior an old carved pew, with the date 1616. On rt. is the junction of the Arrow with the Avon, the latter river flowing from the E., while the rly. follows up the valley of the Arrow to

7m. BROOM STATION. (*Junction with E. and W. Junction Rly. to Stratford-on-Avon*, p. 100.) The village, immortalised by Shakespeare as "beggarly Broom," lies to rt. A pretty view northwards, looking towards Alcester.

7½m. WIXFORD STATION (*Hotel: Fish.*) This is rather a noted angling locality for the Arrow. The ch., dedicated to St. Milburgh, is of different dates, from Norm. to Perp. It has a chantry, built by Thos. de Cruive, 1418, which contains his tomb with brass effigies of himself and wife under canopies. Notice the insertion of the family badge, a foot, between each word of the inscription. There is also a brass to a son of Pryse Gryffin of Broom, 1597. There is an extremely pretty footpath from Wixford to Alcester on the l. bank of the river, underneath Oversley Hill, on which is a Folly tower. It is, in point of fact, the course of the Icknield St., and shows traces of a covered way. The best views of Ragley are obtainable from it, the mansion not being visible from the rly. 1m. E. of Wixford is Exhall ch., which has an altar tomb with brass effigy of John Walsingham, 1566, and wife, the former in armour. There is an exceedingly pretty view, 1m. from Wixford, of the little ch. of Arrow by the side of the river.

9½m. ALCESTER. (*Junction with G.W.R. to Bearley and Hatton. Hotels: Bear, Swan. Pop. 5290. Distances: Birmingham, 19m.; Redditch, 7m.; Stratford-on-Avon, 8m.; Coughton, 2½m.; Arrow, 1m.*) Alcester (locally called 'Alster) is one of the little sleepy hollows, such as still linger in the out-of-the-way corners of England. It is very prettily situated in the vale of the Arrow, at

its junction with the Alne, surrounded by softly wooded hills. That it was once in the occupation of the Romans, seems probable from traces of domestic buildings which have been found, and it is believed to have been the ancient Alauna. There is but little to be seen, save the ch., which formerly belonged to the nunnery of Cokehill in Worcestershire, but at the Dissolution came into the possession of the Grevilles, and was eventually bought by the Marquis of Hertford. It is for the most part debased Gothic in style, though the tower is good Dec., of three stages, and with crocketed pinnacles. The aisles are separated from the nave by Doric columns which support the roof, and the chancel is little more than a recess for the altar, being only 10 ft. deep by 16 in width. The two chantries which previously existed, belonging to Our Lady and to the Beauchamps have disappeared. There is a carved pulpit and a singular chest with folding doors, the painted figures on which are supposed to represent Freemasons; also monuments to the 2nd Marquis of Hertford, with effigies by *Chantrey*, and an altar tomb with effigies to Sir Fulke and Lady Elizabeth Greville, the compartments having figures and heraldic shields. The Town Hall is a rather picturesque semi-timbered building. 1m. N. of the town is Beauchamp's Court, now a farmhouse, but once the residence of the Beauchamp and Greville families. Traces of the moat are still to be observed. Though Alcester is the centre of a rural district, it has an industry, like Redditch, of needle-making. For a long time the Alcester makers were celebrated for their sail and packing needles, but eventually Redditch succeeded in attracting both capital and machinery, and became the needle metropolis, while Alcester possesses only some two or three factories. There is, however, a good deal of domestic industry in connection with the town, in the shape of needle drilling, stamping, burnishing, and scouring.

EXCURSION.

To Arrow 1m. S., a charming little village with a ch. on the banks of the river. It is of Norm. date, though with subsequent alterations, as for instance, a Dec. door with panel-work tracery, within a Norm. doorway. In the chancel are a

piscina and some fresco heraldic designs on the wall of the families of Greville and Willoughby de Broke. There is a marble monument to Admiral Sir G. Seymour, erected by the 5th Marquis of Hertford, and executed by his son-in-law, Count Gleichen. In the 12th cent. Arrow Park belonged to the Burdetts. In 1477 Edward IV. was hunting in the park, when he by accident killed the owner's favourite white buck, at which the latter was so incensed that he lost his temper, and expressed a wish "that the deer's horns were in the king's belly." For this he was arrested for high treason and executed. On high ground overlooking the village and the valley is Ragley, the splendid seat of the Marquis of Hertford. The house, built by Lord Conway in the 18th cent., is Italian, with four fronts, the principal entrance being at the E. side. There is in the interior a fine collection of paintings by Titian, Vandyck, Reynolds and others, together with a library containing 30,000 volumes. The park of 700 acres is charmingly wooded, with a great diversity of hill and dale.

11½m. COUGHTON STATION. The village is on rt., on the Icknield Street, and has a very interesting Perp. ch., consisting of chancel, nave with aisles and clerestory, chantry chapels and a W. tower. In the interior is some of the old stained glass with various monuments of the Throckmorton family—including Sir Robert T., who died in the Holy Land 1520; Sir George T. and wife, with brass effigies and figures of their eight sons and eleven daughters: Sir John T. and wife, her right hand holding that of her husband: brass to Dame Elizabeth T., 1547, the abbess of a nunnery in Cambridgeshire. Coughton Court (C. Andrew) was the old manor-house of the Throckmortons (built by Sir George T., t. Henry VIII.). It underwent some harsh treatment during the Civil War, when the then owner, Sir Robert, was dispossessed. At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, it was the abiding place of Sir Everard Digby. At 13m. l. is the hamlet of Sambourne, where the earliest, or one of the earliest, horse mills for making needles was set up. There is a celebrated oak here.

13½m. STUDLEY STATION. The village (rt.) is engaged

in needle making. The ch. is of different styles, having a Norm. doorway in the N. wall, while the windows in the S. aisle are Dec. There are several monuments of the 17th and 18th cent. Studley Castle (T. E. Walker) is an imposing modern mansion, built 1834 by Sir F. Goodricke. There is another interesting ch. at Ipsley, 2½m. N. of Studley, and traces of a Roman camp on the Icknield Street, which runs E. of the village.

16½m. REDDITCH STATION. (*Hotel: Unicorn. Pop. 9964. Distances: Birmingham, 12m.; Bromsgrove 6m.; Alcester, 7m.; Studley 3m.*) Few places are more prettily situated than this, the metropolis of needle makers, though the red brick factories and the unprepossessing appearance of the town go far to neutralise its natural position. Except these factories, there is very little to see, and they are not accessible except to visitors who bring an introduction. Redditch is the centre of the manufacture, not only of needles, but of fish-hooks and fishing-tackle, with which it supplies the civilised world. In these materials the town has few rivals, the neighbouring villages, such as Studley, Alcester, Ipsley and Sambourne, acting as feeders rather than as separate districts, while there is only one other place in the kingdom, viz. Hathersage in Derbyshire, which occupies itself with this branch of industry. The needle trade took root in Redditch about the end of the 17th cent., and the only changes since then have been in the elaboration of the machinery, a good deal of which, especially of recent years, is owing to American ingenuity. A needle, small as it is, had, not very long ago, to pass through seventy different operations before being ready for use; but matters have been greatly simplified of late, and machinery now does away with much of this necessity. All the same, there are certain operations in the trade, such as tempering, which are still matters of rule of thumb, in which no machinery will ever displace the experience of the skilled artizan. From Redditch, the greater portion of which is in Worcestershire, the line runs N. through a gently undulating country, entering a small outlying portion of Warwickshire, to

19m. ALVECHURCH STATION, and soon joins the main Midland line at

22m. BARNT GREEN STATION. (*Junction with Birmingham and Gloucester Railway.*)

23½m. KING'S NORTON STATION. (*Junction with West Suburban Railway*, p. 78.) There is here a good Perp. ch. with a lofty spire, and a Grammar School founded by Edward VI., together with large paper mills and the wood-screw manufactory of Messrs. Nettlefold.

25m. MOSELEY STATION. In this elevated and pleasant district is the Spring Hill College for training students for the Congregational Church, well placed on Billesley Common (p. 71). All vestiges of the country now cease, and the traveller soon reaches the New Street Central Station at

28½m. BIRMINGHAM. (*Hotel: Queen's*, p. 59.)

Railway Excursions.

XII. ALCESTER TO BEARLEY AND HATTON (G.W.R.).

This is a short but convenient line, affording communication between the middle and western districts of the county. Quitting the Midland line, the valley of the Alne is followed to

2½m. GREAT ALNE STATION. The village lies on l. At 4½m rt. is Aston Cantlow, the ch. of which contains an interesting font, besides a piscina and some sedilia. Of old residents in this parish were the Ardens, one of whom married John Shakespeare, the father of the poet. Soon afterwards the line is crossed by the Stratford-on-Avon and Birmingham Canal, and reaches

7m. BEARLEY STATION. (*Junction with line to Stratford-on-Avon and Honeybourne*.) The scenery is very pretty in this neighbourhood, an undulating country, with soft wooded hills. On l., in pleasant grounds, is Edstone House (M. Hetherington), the birthplace and once the seat of Somerville, the poet, author of 'The Chace,' (d. 1742). At 9m. rt. is Wolverton; the ch. (restored 1869), of Dec. date, has a sepulchre on N. side of the chancel, with sedilia, and some of the old stained glass of the 14th cent. There are also monuments to the families of Stanton and Robarts.

10½m. CLAVERDON STATION. Claverdon ch., on high ground, l., dates from the 16th cent., and has a debased chancel, in which is the monument of T. Spencer, 1586, son of Sir J. Spencer, of Althorp. Norton Lindsay ch.

(2½m. rt. of rly.) is E. E. Between Claverdon and Hatton Stations (l.) are Stonehouse, the remains of Thomas Spencer's mansion, erected 1525, and Pinley, where are traces of a small priory, within a moated area of four acres.

12½m. HATTON STATION. (*Junction with main G.W.R. to Birmingham and Warwick, p. 55*).

Railway Excursions.

XIII. HONEYBOURNE JUNCTION TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON AND HATTON (G.W.R.).

HONEYBOURNE JUNCTION, where the Stratford branch is given off, is in Worcestershire, which, with part of Gloucestershire, juts in and out into Warwickshire in a rather confusing manner.

3½m. LONG MARSTON STATION. The valley of the Avon is approached, and Warwickshire entered at

6m. MILLCOTE STATION. Millcote House was burnt by the Parliamentary troops, to prevent the King's forces from using it as a garrison. At 7½m. the Avon is crossed to

9m. STRATFORD-ON-AVON. (*Refreshment rooms. There is also a station of the East and West Junction Rly. Hotels: Shakespeare (very comfortable); Red Lion (where Washington Irving stayed). Pop. 8053. Distances: London, 110m.; Birmingham, 22m.; Warwick, 8m.; Charlecote, 3½m.; Alcester, 8m.; Henley-in-Arden, 8m.; Bidford, 6½m.; Shipston-on-Stour, 11m.; Atherstone-on-Stour, 3m.; Sherborne, 8½m.; Shottery, 1m.*) The most unobservant person could scarcely be in Stratford-on-Avon for ten minutes without perceiving that he was on classic ground, and that the name and genius of William Shakespeare are the pivots on which the life of the town hinges. Shakespeare is everywhere; in the church, in the fields, in the streets, in the houses. Even the very rooms of the hotels are Shakespearean in name, and visitors must indeed be unimaginative if they too do not become thoroughly imbued with the Shakespearean atmosphere. Until one has seen the place, it is difficult to understand the devotion which throughout the year brings such a constant stream of English, American, and foreign worshippers to the shrine. Indeed, in this re-

spect, the Americans far outstrip the English; for, as soon as they are landed at Liverpool, in nine cases out of ten, a start is made for Stratford-on-Avon, before any other plan is arranged or any other place visited. Apart from this sentiment, Stratford is well worth visiting, for it lies in a charming country, and is in itself an unusually pleasant, well-built town, with a remarkable air of prosperity. Speaking in the lowest sense, it is easy to perceive that Shakespeare has been making the fortune of Stratford and the neighbourhood for centuries past.

It will scarcely be out of place to note, as briefly as possible, a few of the leading incidents in Shakespeare's life, and particularly those which are connected with Stratford. To judge by the frequency of the name, there must have been a good many Shakespeares in this part of Warwickshire, though the poet's father, John Shakespeare, was born at Snitterfield, a village some three or four miles distant. He was probably of the class of small farmers. About 1551 he settled in Stratford, some say as a glover, according to others a butcher, the truth being that he started as a local merchant, doing business in wool and general agricultural produce. By his marriage with one of the family of the Ardens of Wilmcote, he advanced his position in life, being enabled to purchase the house in Henley Street (where the poet was born); and he was appointed ale-taster, and eventually bailiff and chief alderman of the borough. John and Mary Shakespeare had ten children, of whom William was the third, being baptized April 26th, 1564. He was a scholar at the Grammar School between 1572-8, where he acquired the rudiments at least of his education, including doubtless the "small Latin and less Greek," to which Ben Jonson and Aubrey both bore testimony. It is rather doubtful what his earliest employment was, though he appears to have been apprenticed to a butcher. At the age of 19 he married Ann Hathaway of Shottery, his wife being eight years older than himself, but his marriage does not appear to have been a very happy one. At all events, soon after the birth of three children, the last two of whom were twins, he left his family and his home, the immediate cause of this step being a deer stealing escapade at Charlecote, which involved him in a serious difficulty,

and obliged him to seek shelter in London, where he soon found employment in connection with the theatres, and was probably one of the company playing at the Blackfriars Theatre. Before many years had elapsed, his reputation as an actor, and still more as a dramatist, had rapidly grown, and he became a prosperous man, returning every now and then to Stratford to visit his family. In 1597 he bought the house known as New Place (p. 103), and finally, in 1616, gave up his interest in theatrical concerns, and returned to his native town to reside there altogether, busying himself with writing plays and attending to agricultural matters. He died 1616 aged 53. His widow survived him seven years.

The first object of attraction to the visitor is Shakespeare's house in Henley Street, where the poet was born. The house and grounds, together with the museum, which is under the same roof, are jealously cared for, and are under the guardianship of trustees and a curator, the premises now being national property. "The Shakespearean Fund was established in Oct., 1861, to accomplish the following objects:—1. The purchase of the gardens of Shakespeare at New Place. 2. The purchase of the remainder of the Birth-place Estate. 3. The purchase of Ann Hathaway's cottage, with an endowment for a custodian. 4. The purchase of Getley's copyhold, Stratford-on-Avon. 5. The purchase of any other properties, at or near Stratford-on-Avon, that either formerly belonged to Shakespeare, or are intimately connected with the memoirs of his life. 6. The calendaring and preservation of those records at Stratford-on-Avon which illustrate the poet's life, or the social history and life of Stratford-on-Avon in his time. 7. The erection and endowment of a public library and museum at Stratford-on-Avon." (*A fee of sixpence to view the house, and another sixpence to see the museum.*) The walls and ceilings of the house, and particularly of the birth-room upstairs, are a mass of hieroglyphics, the truly British practice of pilgrims to the shrine, and it is almost a work of supererogation for fresh visitors to write their names, seeing that there is scarcely a particle of room left for those who might be anxious to contribute. There certainly cannot be a space of ten square feet in this world, containing evidence of more intense human interest than does this small chamber.

The museum, a large proportion of which was originally formed by the late Mr. Wheler, and generously given to the town by Miss Wheler, is full of mementoes of Shakespeare's life, of which the most interesting items are the desk which he is believed to have used at school, and a signet ring with W. S. upon it. There is a most complete collection of books, documents, MSS., paintings and engravings, which refer in every possible way to Shakespeare and his writings. The portrait in oil of Shakespeare, known as the *Stratford portrait*, supposed originally to have belonged to the Clopton family, and afterwards belonging to that of Mr. W. O. Hunt, is the only known painting of old date which represents the poet in the same costume in which he appears in the monumental effigy in the church. The same personal arrangement is visible in the pretty garden at the back, which is planted with many of the trees and flowers mentioned in his works. From Shakespeare's birth-place the visitor will proceed to the Grammar School, where his early school days were passed—a most picturesque low-roofed group of buildings close to the old Guild chapel. It was founded by Thomas Jolyffe in Edward IV.'s reign, and afterwards chartered by Edward VI. The next point to be examined is the house, or rather the site of the house where Shakespeare resided in his after life, when he returned to Stratford, having given up his theatrical career. This site is called New Place, and stands at the corner of Chapel Lane, conspicuous for the reverential care with which the grounds are kept, and the railings with gilt letters that fence it in from the street. "New Place, the abode of the poet's later years, which is said to have been originally built by Sir Hugh Clopton in the reign of Henry VII., and which was then known by the name of the Great House, came, on Shakespeare's death, to Mrs. Hall (his eldest daughter), and on her decease to her only child, Elizabeth Nash, afterwards Lady Bernard. In this mansion, while it belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Nash, Queen Henrietta Maria held her court for about three weeks, during the Civil War in 1643. As directed in Lady Bernard's will, New Place was sold after the death of herself and her husband. Subsequently we find it again in the possession of the Clopton family, and in 1742, Garrick, Macklin, and Delane (the actors) were enter-

tained by Sir Hugh Clopton in the garden of New Place, under what was called Shakespeare's mulberry tree. The constant tradition of Stratford declared that this celebrated tree was planted by the poet's hand, probably about 1609, as during that year an immense number of young mulberry trees were imported from France, and sent into different counties of England, by order of King James, with a view to the encouragement of the silk manufacture. Sir Hugh Clopton modernised the house by internal and external alterations. His son-in-law, Henry Talbot, Esq., sold New Place to the Rev. Francis Gastrell, vicar of Frodsham, in Cheshire. This wealthy and unamiable clergyman, conceiving a dislike to the mulberry tree, because it subjected him to the importunities of travellers, whose veneration for Shakespeare induced them to visit it, caused it to be cut down and cleft into pieces for firewood in 1756; the greater part of it, however, was bought by a watchmaker of Stratford, who converted every fragment into small boxes, goblets, tooth-pick cases, and tobacco-stoppers, for which he found eager purchasers. Mr. Gastrell, having quarrelled with the magistrates about parochial assessment, razed the mansion to the ground in 1759, and quitted Stratford amidst the rage and execrations of the inhabitants."—*Dyce*. The original theatre was located in the garden of New Place, and Nash House was the residence of Thomas Nash, who married Shakespeare's granddaughter Elizabeth. The next point of interest is the ch., which, apart from the illustrious memorials that it contains, is of singular beauty, both of style and situation. It is approached from the road by an avenue of overarching lime trees, while on the other side the soft-flowing Avon washes the very walls of the churchyard—on the opposite bank, green meadows, with wooded hills in the background. *An admission fee of sixpence is charged.* Stratford-on-Avon ch. is cruciform, and of dates varying from E.E. to Perp., consisting of nave, with aisles and clerestory, short transepts and chancel, with a tower of three stages, rising from the intersection, and surmounted by a beautiful spire. The uppermost stage of the tower is lighted on either side by circular lights, with good tracing, and between them and the parapet a delicate kind of machicolation runs around. On the W. doorway are

three canopied niches (empty), and a very pretty stone panel-work should be noticed, forming a border close to the ground. Internally the nave consists of six bays, separated from the aisles by plain sex-angular piers, the vaulting shafts between each aisle terminated by figures of angels. In each bay are two clerestory windows, which are placed so close to each other as to look almost like a continuous line of window, and in this respect Stratford clerestory resembles St. Michael's, Coventry. The nave has a good timber roof, and there is panel-work between the clerestory and the nave arches, occupying the space which the triforium would occupy. Viewed from the chancel entrance, it will be noticed that the church very perceptibly inclines to the N., that the N. arches of the nave moreover are out of the perpendicular, and that the ch. has rather "given" on this side—a fact which should hasten a thorough supervision of the building. The chancel, which was re-built by Dean Balsall 1465–1491, is naturally the spot to which the visitor's attention is drawn before every other, as it contains the grave and monument of Shakespeare. Both are on the N. side of the chancel, the flat stone that covers his grave bearing the following inscription :

" Good Frend, for Jesvs sake forbear
To digg the dvst enclosed Heare :
Blese be ye man yt spares thes stones
And cvrst be he y^t moves my bones."

According to Dowdall this epitaph was "made by himselfe, a little before his death." The monument on the N. wall, consists of a bust of the poet in an ornamental arch between two Corinthian columns, surmounted by the armorial bearings. It is said to have been executed by Gerard Johnson soon after death, and may be considered to be one of the best portraits of the bard that are extant. "It is as large as life, and was originally coloured in imitation of nature; the eyes were light hazel, the hair and beard auburn, the doublet was scarlet, the loose gown without sleeves black, the plain band round the neck and the wristbands were white, the upper part of the cushion in front of the bust was green, the under half crimson, the cords running along the cushion and the tombs were gilt. These colours were renewed in 1749, but Malone caused the whole to be

covered over with one or more coats of white paint, in 1793."—*Dyce*. This white paint was removed in 1811, and the original colours restored. The inscriptions beneath the bust are as follows :

"Jvdicio Pylium, genio Socratem : arte Maronem ; Terræ legit,
popvlvs Mœret, Olympvs Habet."

"Stay, passenger ; why goest thov by so fast ?

Read, if thov canst, whom enviovs death hath plast
Within this monvment : Shakespeare, with whome
Qvicke natvre dide : whose name doth deck ys tombe
Far more than coste : Sith all yt he hath writt
Leaves living art bvt page to serve his witt."

Obitt Ato Doⁱ 1616, Ætatis 53, Die 23 Apr.

Close by is a beautiful stained glass window representing the Seven Ages of Man, though one compartment still remains to be filled up. This, the American window, has been exclusively the contributions of Transatlantic visitors, and when complete will cost \$1250.

It will be remembered that, while a statue was erected to Shakespeare in Westminster Abbey in 1740, no attempt has been made to translate his ashes thither, influenced, no doubt, by the very strong anathema pronounced by the poet in the epitaph on his gravestone.

In the immediate vicinity of Shakespeare's grave is that of his wife Anne, who died 1623, aged 67 ; also of Susannah, his eldest daughter, who married Dr. John Hall. She died 1649, aged 66. Dr. Hall is buried here, as is also Thomas Nash, who married his daughter Elizabeth, but he, dying before her, she married Sir John Bernard, Knight, and at her death, in 1669, was buried at Abington, Northamptonshire. In the chancel is the very fine altar tomb, with effigy, of John Combe, Shakespeare's money-lending friend, upon whom, when living, the poet is said to have written impromptu a very caustic epitaph. Though this was done at Mr. Combe's own request, the sharpness of the epigram, nevertheless, gave great offence, and Combe never forgave it. This story is, however, said by some to have no foundation. There is a monument to Dean Balsall, the builder of the chancel. There is a profusion of stained glass, including the E. window of seven lights, two half windows (the remainder being blocked up) and the American window on the N. wall, while on the S. wall are two others and a half one.

On either side the E. window are some rich canopied niches. Notice the Perp. doorway on N. side, by the altar railings, with carvings of St. Christopher and the Annunciation; and also the carving of the Miserere seats. The organ by *Hill*, of 56 stops, occupies a position in the N. transept, and has some excellent wood carving on the sliding door. The S. transept, used as a vestry, contains the (broken) font in which Shakespeare was baptised, and the register in which this and his burial are recorded. There is also an altar tomb to Rich. Hill, with inscriptions in English, Latin, Hebrew and Greek. One of the most interesting details in the ch. is the old doorway leading to the tower staircase just by the pulpit. The E. end of the N. aisle is occupied by the chapel of the Virgin Mary, which contains the monuments of the Clopton family, three in number. On the N. side is the altar tomb of William Clopton and his wife, the sides being covered with armorial bearings. Against the E. wall is that of Carew, Earl of Totness (d. 1629), and Joice, his wife, who was daughter of the last-named William Clopton. The effigies have much of the original colouring, and the front of the monument is covered with military emblems. On the S. side, without effigy or inscription lies (supposed) Sir Hugh Clopton, who pulled down the original Shakespeare house at New Place, and erected another in its stead. The corresponding portion of the S. aisle was dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, and has some sedilia with canopies. The carving of grotesque animals, &c., is good, but the whole thing is of modern date. The W. window is a remarkably fine one of nine lights.

Above the ch., equally close to the river, is the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, a peculiar looking, though striking building of red brick, erected in 1877 for the purpose of annually celebrating the period of the poet's birth, by a series of Shakespearean representations. The ground was given by Mr. Flower, and the interior contains a very pretty theatre of the most perfect construction, which will hold 1000 persons, a picture gallery, and a library. Notice the stained glass in the staircase and corridor. When all is finished the space around the exterior will be prettily planted and laid out. The first Shakespearean Jubilee was held 1769, under the guidance of Garrick, and in 1864 the tercentenary took place. The completion of the theatre ensures that once in every

year Shakespeare's plays are performed at the very spot where, for the most part, they were written.

At the corner of Chapel Lane, opposite New Place, is the church of the Holy Cross, or the Guild chapel, founded in 13th cent. by Robert de Stratford, although the actual building, which consists of nave, chancel, and west tower, only dates from Henry VII.'s time, when it was rebuilt by Sir Hugh Clopton. At the beginning of the present century, some very curious fresco wall paintings were found. One of them represented the murder of Thomas à Becket, while on the west front of the chancel arch were the Resurrection and the Day of Judgment. Unfortunately they were destroyed, and no traces of them left. On the S. side of the chapel is the Guild Hall, in the upper story of which is the Grammar School (p. 103). At the top of Bridge Street is the Town Hall, with a statue of Shakespeare on the exterior, given to the corporation by Garrick at the time of the jubilee. From this point it is but a short distance to the handsome bridge over the Avon, built by Sir Hugh Clopton. The view either way is very soft and charming—looking upwards, to the woods and obelisk of Welcombe—while down the stream the Memorial Theatre and the church spire are conspicuous objects. Boats may be obtained for river excursions. Of modern buildings, the R. C. church is by *Pugin*, and there is a flourishing modern Grammar School called the College, founded by Dr. Collis, late rector of Stratford.

EXCURSIONS.

- (a) To Shuttery 1 m. and Luddington. Field-paths the whole distance, either from Chesnut Walk or from the G.W.R. stat. The pretty little hamlet of Shuttery derives its interest as being the residence of Ann Hathaway, the wife of Shakespeare. She was the daughter of Richard Hathaway, a substantial yeoman of Shuttery, whose family have held property from the middle of the 16th cent. to the present day. Ann Hathaway was nearly eight years older than her husband, and, to judge by the subsequent history, the union would not appear to have been a particularly happy one. The Hathaways lived in a long old-fashioned thatched cottage

at the further end of Shottery, which has now been divided into three, the one nearest the road being shown as the actual one in which Ann Hathaway dwelt. The interior no doubt exhibits very much the same appearance as during her life, and there is a collection of relics in the shape of furniture, linen, and various house articles, which is shown by an old lady, who bears the name of Hathaway, and is a lineal descendant of the family. Luddington lies about 2m. S.W. of Shottery, on the banks of the Avon, the road crossing the East and West Junction Rly. There is a pretty new church here also, the old one, in which Shakespeare is said to have been married, having disappeared.

- (b) To Binton, Temple Grafton, and Bidford (p. 110).
- (c) Bishopston, 2m. N., is noted for a mineral well, containing sulphate of soda and muriatic acid, of considerable value in liver and dyspeptic cases. There is a pump-room, and the establishment goes by the name of the Victoria Spa.
- (d) Alderminster, Easington and Shipston-on-Stour (p. 120).
- (e) Alveston, Hampton Lucy, and Charlecote (p. 111).
- (f) Wellesbourne and Kineton (p. 116).

From Stratford station the rly. makes a curve and runs N.W., passing $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. (rt.) Bishopston Spa.

3m. **WILMCOTE STATION**, in the neighbourhood of which are some large lias lime works. In Wilmcote dwelt Mary Arden, who married Shakespeare's father.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. **BEARLEY STATION**. (*Junction with Alcester branch*, p. 99.)

8m. **CLAVERDON STATION**. The main G.W.R. is joined at

10m. **HATTON STATION** (p. 55).

Road Excursions.

XIV. BROOM TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON AND WARWICK.

The journey from Broom to Stratford may be performed either by road or by the East and West Junction Rly., which, though made the whole distance to Kineton and

Towcester, is only open for passenger traffic as far as Stratford.

BROOM STATION. (*Junction with Midland line to Evesham and Redditch p. 95.*)

1½ m. l. on the banks of the Avon, here crossed by the Icknield Street, is Bidford (*Inn: White Lion*), a prettily situated village, immortalized by Shakespeare as "drunken Bidford." The poet and his companions had one day gone over to this village to a bout of ale-bibbing, having accepted the challenge of a party calling themselves the Bidford Topers and Sippers. But the latter were too strong in the head for the Stratford visitors, who, after a lengthened carouse, gave in, and spent the night slumbering under a crab-tree. In revenge for the defeat and the disgrace, Shakespeare composed these lines in reference to the villages around:

"Piping Pebworth, Dancing Marston,
 Haunted Hillborough, Hungry Grafton,
 With Dodging Exhall, Papist Wixford,
 Beggarly Broom, and Drunken Bidford."

The ch., which overlooks the Avon, is of Norm. date, and was formerly larger than it now is. Bidford was altogether of more importance in old times, for it had a market granted to it by Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, which was in existence until the reign of Elizabeth.

3¼ m. **BINTON STATION.** Close by, the river is crossed into Gloucestershire. The village, some ½ m. l. is unimportant, but to the geologist, the whole of this district, including Bidford and Temple Grafton, which lies some 2 m. W., is full of interest, on account of the fossil insect remains found in the quarries of the Lower Lias (p. 8).

8 m. **STRATFORD-ON-AVON STATION**, at which point the line ceases as far as passengers are concerned (p. 100).

From Stratford to Warwick two roads are open to the pedestrian: 1. On the rt. bank of the Avon, the most direct route 8 m.; 2. By the l. bank, the prettiest and most interesting, but the longest, 10 m.

The direct road keeps very near the stream for the first two miles, passing under the wooded hills of Welcombe (R. N. Philips), crowned by an obelisk. There are traces of a Roman encampment near this spot. The chief interest of Welcombe consists in the fact that it was the residence of Mr. John Combe, the friend of

Shakespeare, whose altar tomb is in Stratford church, though his house has been superseded by the present modern one. A little behind Welcombe Hill is Clopton (A. Hodgson), originally the property of the family of that name, one of whom, Sir Hugh Clopton, built the bridge at Stratford and pulled down Shakespeare's house at New Place, erecting another which, in its turn, was destroyed by Mr. Gastrell. At one time Clopton was tenanted by Rokewood, one of the principal Gunpowder Plot conspirators. On the opposite side of the Avon is seen the tower of Alveston ch. At 2½m. a road runs to Hampton Lucy 1½m. (p. 112) and at 3½m. is a road on l. to Snitterfield 1½m., the village which gave birth to Shakespeare's father, who resided here until his removal to Stratford. The ch. contains some good carving. A former vicar, the Rev. Mr. Jago (18th cent.) was a poet of some reputation. Exceedingly pretty views are to be had all round Snitterfield, the country between the Warwick road and the railway being broken and wooded. In the parish is the King's Lane, down which King Charles II. rode behind Miss Lane, disguised as her groom, after the Battle of Worcester. Snitterfield Hall (R. N. Philips) and (nearer Welcombe) Ingon Grange (Col. Attye). At 5m. (rt.) a lane leads to Fulbrooke, the actual locality of Shakespeare's raid upon Sir Thomas Lucy's deer, although now disparked. The Castle Hill marks the spot where John Plantagenet, third son of Henry IV., built a castellated house in Fulbrooke Park, but it was eventually pulled down by Sir William Compton, who carried off the materials to build his house at Compton Winyate (p. 124). Equidistant on l. is Norbrook, where was the old manor-house of John Grant, the rendezvous of the conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot. At 7m. the road on the l. bank (leading also to Wellesbourne Hastings and Kineton) runs in. 8m. Warwick.

The Charlecote road crosses the river at Stratford Bridge, giving off roads to Kineton and Shipston-on-Stour, and then passing through the hamlet of Tiddington. 2m., occupying a corner within a curve of the river, is the pleasant village of Alveston, containing many nice residences. The ch., restored 1876, has transepts and a tower at the W. end. 3½m. l. the lodge gate of Charlecote Park, though the best view of the house from the road is obtained at 4½m., beyond where the river Dene is crossed.

Charlecote (H. S. Lucy) is, apart from the beauty and interest of the old manor-house, one of the many places in this neighbourhood indissolubly bound up with the career of Shakespeare, for it was here that he, very soon after his marriage, became involved in serious trouble on account of a deer-stealing expedition. For this he was prosecuted by Sir Thomas Lucy, in revenge for which Shakespeare wrote a very bitter lampoon upon him.

It was scarcely to be wondered that such an insult provoked far more indignation than the actual poaching offence; nor did the poet let his revenge end here, for he figured Sir Thomas Lucy under the character of Justice Shallow in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' and in 'Henry IV.'

There are few more picturesque mansions in the county than Charlecote, which consists of a centre and two wings, flanked by octagonal turrets. In front is a gatehouse (*under ordinary circumstances there is no admission*). The interior is furnished in a manner corresponding to the general date, and contains paintings by Teniers, Potter, Vandyck, Wouvermann, and others. The park, through which flows the Dene to join the Avon, is beautifully wooded, and there is an avenue of limes up to the house. Notice on the gateway by Dene Bridge the "lucres," or pike, the arms of the family. A little further on is Charlecote Church, a modernised building of Dec. date. The Lucy chapel, separated from the chancel by an oak screen, contains the monuments of three Sir Thomas Lucys, viz., effigies of the Sir Thomas and Lady Lucy who figure in Shakespeare; their son, who reposes in solitary state; and the third Sir Thomas and Lady, a beautiful work by *Bernini*. The epitaph to his wife was written, it is said, by Sir Thomas, but on his own monument there is none. On the northern side of the park is a road on l. to Hampton Lucy, or Bishop Hampton, crossing the Avon by a cast-iron bridge, close to the confluence of the Thelesford Brook, a spot where once stood Thelesford Priory, founded, in 1204, by Sir Wm. Lucy. The ch. of Hampton Lucy is unusually good, partly by *Rickman*, with a recent addition of an apse by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. Over the N. porch is a parvise chamber, and the interior contains several stained glass windows and an oak pulpit upon serpentine columns.

6m. The road joins the main road to Wellesbourne

and Kineton. On l. is the village of Wasperton, the ch. of which was restored by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. It has a good chancel-screen, and an E. window by *Pugin*, his last design.

8m. At Barford the road crosses the Avon. The ch. (on rt.) belonged to the Priory of Evesham, and was entirely rebuilt in 1844, all except the tower, which bears traces of rough usage in the shape of the marks of the cannon-balls fired at it by the Parliamentary troops. Close to the road is Barford House (Brook Robinson); Barford Hill (Miss Ryland). On the other side the river (l.) is seen the spire of the beautiful ch. of Sherborne, restored, 1864, by the late *Sir G. G. Scott*, and at the cost (20,000*l.*, it is said) of Miss Ryland, to whom Warwickshire in general and Birmingham in particular (p. 69) are indebted for many munificent deeds. The interior has an exquisite alabaster reredos; a white marble font, inlaid with precious stones; monuments to the Wests, who possessed the manor between the time of the Lucys and the Rylands; and a mortuary chapel, with an elaborate tomb, by *Pugin*, to Miss Ryland's father. In the ch.-yd. is the octagonal base and part of the shaft of a cross. Close by the ch. is Sherborne House (H. Chance).

10m. Warwick (p. 47), the tower and gateway of St. James forming a most picturesque termination to the view.

Road Excursions.

XV. STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO HENLEY-IN-ARDEN AND BIRMINGHAM.

As far as Bearley Station, 4½m., the Birmingham road runs nearly parallel with the rly., and at the foot of a softly wooded group of hills. 6½m. Wootton Waven, the ch. of which, prettily situated on rising ground, is one of the most interesting in the county, containing Anglo-Saxon details. It consists of nave, with S. aisle and clerestory, chancel, and a large chantry chapel on the S. side of the chancel. The tower is placed eastward of the nave, and shows Anglo-Saxon work in the substructure, and in the N. and S. doors, which are circular headed, with square-edged moulding. The upper portion of the tower is later (15th cent.), and has an embattled parapet, as has

also the rich clerestory, which is raised on a wall and pier arches of the 14th cent. The chancel arch is Anglo-Saxon, and is only 4 ft. 8 in. in width, while the arch between tower and nave is 6 ft. 9½ in. The monuments are very numerous, including an altar tomb to John Harewell, 1428, with brass effigies of knight in armour, his wife and children: another, with effigies, dated 1505; to Francis Smith, 1626, with coloured effigy in armour, the face having a beard, and the neck surrounded by a ruffle; to Hon. Frances Covington, 1698; to the Somervilles of Edston; to Henrietta, Lady Luxborough, &c. The communion table is very long and large, apparently arranged by the Puritans so as to allow them to sit round it. Wootton Hall (Capt. Haydock) adjoining the ch.

8m. Henley-in-Arden. (*Hotel: White Swan. Pop. 1100. Omnibus to Bearley Stat. Distances: Stratford-on-Avon, 8m.; Bearley Stat. 4m.; Kingswood, 6m.; Birmingham, 14m.*) is a quiet, clean, little country town, consisting of one long street; the principal objects of interest being the church and the market cross, the latter formed of a base, a shaft, surmounted by four enriched niches, containing the Holy Trinity, the Crucifixion, and St. Peter, the fourth being mutilated. The ch. (late Perp.) has nave with N. aisle, chancel, pinnacled tower at the west end, and a beautiful porch with an embattled parapet and trefoil headed panels. The roof of the nave and choir has sculptures of angels holding shields, and there is some fragmentary stained glass. Adjoining the ch. on N. side was a guild founded by Lord Sudely in 15th cent. The history of Henley is very slight, though it was of more importance in old times than it is now, having been a borough t. Edward I., and the property of the de Montforts, for which the town suffered after the battle of Evesham. Close to the town on E. is Beaudesert, where, on a mound above the ch., stood the castle built by Thurston de Montfort, which has long disappeared. The ch. is of different dates, but principally Norman, with insertions of later date. On S. side are a Norm. doorway and windows, and there is a Norm. E. window with zigzag mouldings. The Norman chancel is a parallelogram with rectangular termination, and there is an exquisite chancel arch with zigzag mouldings and scalloped capitals. The tower, which has Norm.

buttresses, is crowned with a pyramidal roof. Beaudesert was the birthplace of Robert Jago, the author of 'Edgehill,' and a local poet of considerable repute, who was afterwards vicar of Snitterfield. The visitor should ascend the hill above the village, which commands a beautiful view, extending from the Malverns to Edgehill. Some 2m. E. is the village of Preston Bagot, the church placed on a hill. It is of Norm. date, though much altered. 1m. N. is Preston Bagot House (W. Onslow), an old timber building of the time of James I. On the other side the canal is Yarningale Common, a good hunting-ground for the botanist. There is a tumulus upon it, and a camp at Barmoor, which lies to the S. Nearly 4m, S.W. of Henley-in-Arden (between it and Studley) is Moreton Bagot ch., which has a timber belfry and a singular half-blocked window on the S., which was probably used for outward confession. About 2m. W. of Henley in the parish of Ullenhall, is the park of Barrells (T. H. Newton), where formerly dwelt the Lady Lubborough, half-sister to Visct. Bolingbroke. There are several old moated houses in the neighbourhood.

9½ m. A little to rt. is Camp Hill, where is a tumulus, probably an outpost of the camp at Harborough Banks by Kingswood Station. On l. a road runs to Tanworth 3½ m., passing the moated house of Botley Bank. Tanworth is situated on the high ground in which the waters of the Alne have their source, the church spire being conspicuous from afar. At the end of the village, an avenue of over 1 mile, which must formerly have been magnificent before the trees were cut down, leads to Umberslade (G. F. Muntz) formerly the seat of the Earl of Plymouth.

At 10 m. the road ascends Liverdon Hill, and there is a perceptible change in the country, which becomes bleaker in character. 11 m., road on rt. leads to Lapworth, the manor of which belonged to the De Montforts, and afterwards to Sir Wm. Catesby, the friend of Richard III., who was beheaded after the Battle of Bosworth Field. The Robert Catesby who was engaged in the Gunpowder Plot was born, 1573, at Bushwood Hall (which lies nearly 2 m. S. near Copt Heath), a very characteristic mansion of the 14th century. The moat is still traceable. He died 1605 at Holbeach, during the attack made upon the house in which the conspirators

had taken refuge. Lapworth ch., which belongs to Merton College, is very interesting, and was nearly rebuilt in the 15th century. It consists of nave, with aisles and clerestory, chancel with a chapel on N. side, a porch with chapel above, and a tower with spire, connected with the N. aisle by a vestibule. 12 m. on l. is the site of an old chapel at Nuthurst, and an obelisk in the grounds of Umberslade. The Stratford-on-Avon canal is crossed at Hockley House, a noted "change" house in the coaching times. Packwood, (p. 56), lies 1 m. rt. At 14 m., Monkspath Bridge, the infant Blithe is crossed, the road for the next 3m. being known as Monkspath Street and Shirley Street. 18½ (rt.) Hall Green. On left the river Cole rises at Sarehole, near which is the old timber and plaster house of Swanshurst. Westward the Spring Hill College on Billesley Common is a conspicuous object. The road enters Birmingham suburbs at 20½ m., Sparkbrook, from whence it is rather over 2 m. into New Street.

Another road may be taken to Birmingham from Wootton Wawen, turning l. at 7 m. (from Stratford), and skirting, 9 m., the park of Barrels. On l. is the village of Ullenhall. At 10½ m. Worcestershire is entered, the scenery at Oldberrow Hill and Gorgot Hill (11½ m.), where the Alcester road falls in, being exceedingly pretty.

One of the finest views in the whole county is to be had from Upper Skilts, a little S. of Gorgot Hill.

Road Excursions.

XVI. ALCESTER TO STRATFORD - ON - AVON, LOXLEY, WELLESBOURNE, KINETON AND FENNY COMPTON.

From Alcester it is 8m. to Stratford. The road crosses the Arrow at Oversley Green, running at the foot of a charmingly wooded hill, and leaving the village of Kinwarton some little distance on l. At 3m. is a road, rt., to Temple Grafton, it being scarcely necessary to remind the geologist that he is in the Lias insect district, and should not neglect to explore any bit of section across which he may come. The road now ascends a considerable hill, leaving on l. Billesley, the ch. of which was rebuilt 1692 by Bernard Whalley, whose

arms are in E. window. There is a brass to his wife, 1700. Billesley was the birthplace of William Trimell, who was the president of the first English parliament. 7m. rt. road to Shottery (p. 108). (The deviation into the hamlet and so into Stratford by the fields, will not be much more than half a mile.) From Stratford (p. 100) cross the bridge, follow the Warwick road for a very short distance, and take first turning on rt. 4m. the village of Loxley, situated at the foot of a gently rising and well wooded range of hills. Although there is not very much now left to show it, Loxley is a place of very great antiquity, the ch. having been founded in 774 by Offa, King of Mercia, and the place known in Domesday as Locheslei. Since its original foundation the ch. has been twice rebuilt, once in the 13th cent., and again in the 17th cent. Of the earliest ch. there is a trace, in the shape of some Anglo-Saxon herring-bone work in the chancel, and of the second, in the piscina. It once belonged to the Priory of Worcester. Mr. Burgess believes that Loxley is the native place of Robin Hood, although there are two others bearing the same name in England. Loxley Hall (J. C. Jones). Skirting the Wellesbourne woods, in 2m. is reached the little town of Wellesbourne Hastings. (*Inn: King's Head. Pop. 1286. Distances: Warwick, 7½m.; Stratford, 6m.; Loxley, 2m.; Charlecote, 1m.; Kineton, 5m.*) Wellesbourne consists of two distinct townships, viz., Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Montford, separated from each other by the Dene river, and each having its own rates and officials. The distinctive names show that the Wellesbournes were under the protection of powerful families, causing them to be prosperous places, and this was increased by Edward I. granting the privilege of a weekly market and annual fair. The ch., originally built by the first Earl of Warwick, was renewed in 1847 as a memorial to the late Sir John Mordaunt; and it contains reredos and sedilia by *Wyatt*, and a good deal of stained glass, one of the windows having been shown in the Exhibition of 1851. There is a brass to Sir T. Le Strange, t. Henry VI., and the bells are said to have been brought from Thelesford Priory, near Charlecote. Wellesbourne House (Col. Paulett). It is a charming walk of about 2m. up the valley of the Dene, to Walton, the ch. of which, built in the last cent., in lieu of a previous Norm. one,

and which contains the old font, is situated in the precincts of Walton Park (Sir Chas. Mordaunt). The mansion is from the design of the late *Sir G. G. Scott*. The Fosse road is crossed near this by the East and West Junction Rly. 2m. N.E. of Wellesbourne is the village of Newbold Pacey, and the same distance E. is Morton Morrell, near the Fosse road. A local tradition says that Amy Robsart was kept in captivity in the old hall, which once belonged to the Earl of Leicester. From Wellesbourne the road ascends Bath Hill, charming views being obtained from the summit, and a little further on is Bowshott Wood, in which grows the Bowshott oak, a giant of unexceptionable proportions. There are also tumuli in the wood. 3m. l. Compton Verney, the beautiful seat of Lord Willoughby de Broke, with an extensive lake in the grounds. Originally a manor of the 1st Earl of Warwick, it became the property of Sir Richard Verney, or Varney, t. Henry V., who resided here and built a fine house. The present one was erected in the last cent. by *Adam*, and contains a room with panel painting by *Zuccherò*. On rt. of road is Combrook ch. (E. Dec.)

5m. Kineton, or Kington. (*Inns: Swan; Red Lion*. *Pop.* 1276. *Distances: Warwick, 11m.; Stratford, 11m.; Banbury, 12m.; Fenny Compton, 5m.; Compton Verney, 2m.; Edgehill Field, 2½m.*) It is uncertain what is the proper name of this little town, some calling it Kington from the circumstance of an old castle, called King John's, having existed here; others considering that it should be Kineton, and that the well close to the castle site is dedicated to St. Keyne (the patron saint of wells in general). It is a sleepy, decayed place, which the opening of the East and West Junction Rly. might perhaps galvanise into life. The ch. is cruciform, partly E. E. and partly Perp., and contains the sepulchral effigy of a priest. There is a modern Grammar School, founded by Lord Willoughby of Kineton House. 1m. S.W., close to the rly., is Butler's Marston, the manor house of which (M. Malcolm) was the property of the Woodwards, the representative of whom raised a troop for the King during the war, but was slain in sight of home at the battle 1642. The ch. (Norman) was restored, 1872, by *White*, and contains brasses to the Woodward family. There are two tumuli in the parish.

1½m. N.E. is Chadshunt ch., E. E.

Immediately facing Kineton is the long terrace ridge of Edgehill, surmounted by a tower (3¼m. from Kineton), erected 1750, to mark the spot where the centre of the Royalist army was posted on the day of the battle, Oct. 23rd, 1642. The Parliamentary army was commanded by Lord Essex, the Royalists by King Charles himself and Prince Rupert. The chief brunt of the contest lay in the plain below, on the lands called Thistle and Battle Farms; and although the result was indecisive, there is no doubt but that the Parliamentary troops had the best of it. The Earl of Lindsay and his son were taken prisoners, the royal standard captured, and the King was himself in imminent danger of the same fate, being, with less than a hundred horse, within half a musket shot of the enemy. A clump of firs marks the spot where 500 of the slain were interred. The ch. of Radway, some way up the slope (restored 1866), has a recumbent effigy of one of the Royalists who fell; and in the ch.-yd. is a monument to Captain Kingsmill, who shared the same fate. Radway Grange (Rev. W. S. Miller). Apart from the interest of the field of battle, there is a magnificent view, extending into 14 counties, from the tower, or from any part of this elevated table-land, which may be considered as the northern spur of the Cotswolds. A little farther on, in a hollow, is Ratley, the ch.-yd. of which has an ancient preaching cross. 1½m. S. is Upton House (W. H. Jenkins), the grounds remarkable for the number of fishponds. At the N. end of the plateau is Nadbury Camp, a good instance of a British defensive village, surrounded by a vallum and fosse. There is a similar one at Bar-moor (p. 115). Just before reaching the camp, the main road to Banbury turns to the S. (3¼m. from Kineton), and that to Warmington keeps straight along the edge of the hill. Warmington, in former days, possessed a Benedictine Priory, founded by Newburgh, 1st Earl of Warwick, which subsequently Henry VI. handed over to the Carthusians. The ch. (restored 1871), from whence there is a very wide view, is unusually interesting, its date being principally Trans.-Norm. and Dec. The nave is separated from the aisles by four Norm. and one Dec. arch. Attached to the chancel (which has a piscina and sedilia) on the N. side is a re-vestry, entered

by an ogee-headed doorway, and containing an altar. In the S.W. angle is a flight of steps, leading to a chamber with a fireplace and a retiring closet—an unusual example of the *domus inclusi*. The ch. also contains Dec. windows, with exceedingly good tracery. In the ch.-yd. is the grave of Capt. Alexander Gourden, killed at Edgehill, who was buried here in company with 20 private soldiers.

2m. N. is the village of Avon Dassett (follow the Warwick road 1m. and turn to rt.), the ch. of which contains an almost unique monument of a deacon, a former incumbent, before he had taken priest's orders. It consists of an effigy upon a slab of dark Forest marble, lying beneath a horizontal canopy, composed of a semi-circular arch, above which is an engraving of some buildings. Mr. Bloxam says that there is only one other such instance of a deacon's effigy in England, viz., at Furness Abbey. Further N. lies Burton Dassett, said to have once been a flourishing market-town under the name of Chipping Dassett. The ch. has some Norman details. Oliver Cromwell is said to have witnessed the Battle of Edgehill from the tower, and to have been so startled with the apparent ill success of his army, that he slid down the bell-ropes and ran away. On the hills above the village is an old beacon-tower, which was the first to transmit the result of Edgehill battle to London. From Burton Dassett it is about 1½m. to Fenny Compton, p. 41. (*Station on G.W.R.*)

2m. N.E. of Warmington is Farnborough, called in Domesday "*Ferne berge*." The church was restored in 1875 by the late *Sir Gilbert Scott*. Farnborough Hall (Ven. Archdeacon Holbeche). 2m. S. of Warmington is Shotswell ch., which has a singular Puritanical arrangement of seats at east end of the chancel.

Road Excursions.

XVII. STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO EATINGTON, EDGEHILL, AND BANBURY.

Cross the Avon and keep straight on: 3m. 1. Lower Goldicote, soon after which the East and West Junction Rly. is crossed. 5½m. is the village of Upper Eatington

or Ettington, the ch. of which is dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket. On rt. (2m.) is Lower Eatington and Eatington Park, the beautiful seat of the family of Shirley, "the only one in the county," according to Dugdale, "which glories in an uninterrupted succession of owners for so long a term of time." What Dugdale wrote in the 17th cent. holds good at the present time. The first owner of the manor after the Conquest was Henry de Ferrars, which name was revived in the 17th cent., when Charles II. created the son of Sir Robert Shirley, Baron Ferrars of Chartley. The old ch. has only the tower and south transept remaining, the latter forming the chapel of the mansion, and the burial-place of the Shirleys. It contains an altar tomb to Sir Ralph Shirley and his wife, (t. Edward I.), also one to Robert, 1st Earl Ferrars, 1717. The centre figure is that of the Hon. G. Shirley, and on each side of him Lord and Lady Ferrars in coronation robes. The house has a series of sculptures by *Armstead*, representing incidents in the life of the Shirley family. The park is extensive, and noted for its growth of hawthorns. It is skirted on the W. by the Stour, which divides the counties of Warwick and Worcester.

7½m. Pillerton Priors, the ch. of which belonged to a priory in Normandy, but was burnt down 1666. Pillerton Hercy ch., 1m. l., has a good carved roof of 17th cent.

Nearly 3m. rt. in a very isolated district is Whatcote; with an interesting ch.—a Norm. arch on the N. side, nave and chancel Perp., tower E.E. There is a monument with brass to Thomas Nelle, a former rector, and one to another rector, John Davenport, 1597, who held the living for 70 years, and died at the age of 101. In the ch.-yd. is an ancient cross. 1½m. rt. Oxhill ch. (restored 1878) is Norm. with Perp. tower. It has a good chancel screen, and an inscribed slab with inscription to one Daniel Blackford, a Royalist.

10½m. is a road on rt. 2m., to Tysoe, a village well situated on the slopes of the Edgehill. The ch. is Norm. and E.E., and there was, it is said, a Saxon ch. on the same site. It consists of chancel, nave, with aisles, and clerestory. Some of the old pews are worth notice. There is a portion of a cross in the churchyard. The chief curiosity of Tysoe, and indeed of this part of the

countryside, is the Red Horse, a gigantic figure cut from the soil in the hill, like its fellow in the Vale of White Horse. Tradition asserts that this was due to Neville, Earl of Warwick (the king-maker) who, at the battle of Towton, killed his steed, so that he should be obliged to share the danger with the meanest of his soldiers, calling out: "Let him fly that fly will, I will tarry with him that will tarry with me." An annual "scouring" of the Red Horse used to take place on Palm Sunday, the anniversary of the battle, and several lands in the parish were held on the tenure of this proceeding.

At 12m. the summit of Edgehill is reached (p. 119). The road, passing to N. of Upton House (W. H. Jenkins) and skirting the park, runs due S., leaving the village of Hornton in a hollow to l. At 13½m. the road enters Northamptonshire. 18½m. Banbury. (*Stat. G.W.R.*)

Road Excursions.

XVIII. STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR AND MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH.

For the first half dozen miles the road is accompanied by a tramway which connects Stratford with Moreton, and serves a considerable district. Take the road to rt. on the other side the bridge, crossing 1m. the East and West Junction Rly. 2m. rt. the village of Clifford Chambers in Gloucestershire, and 3m. rt. that of Atherstone-on-Stour, the (Dec.) ch. of which contains a monument to Dr. Thomas 1710, the editor of 'Dugdale.' 4½ rt., on the opposite bank of the Stour, is Whitchurch, the ch. of which contains a slab to the wife of Sir Thomas Overbury, whose uncle was poisoned in the Tower 1613 for endeavouring to dissuade the Earl of Somerset from marrying the divorced Countess of Essex. The Sir Thomas Overbury, who met with this sad fate, was a native of Ilmington, about 4m. S. of Whitchurch. It has a rather fine cruciform ch. of Norm. and E.E. dates. Opposite Whitchurch, though in Worcester, is the village of Alderminster. At 6m. the Stour is crossed at Upton, the road on l. skirting Eatington Park (p. 121), and leading (2½m.) to Upper Eatington. On l., 8½, is the village of Halford, a busy place in the old coaching days. The ch. was restored, 1861. Halford is noted

for the beauty of its bowling-green. 10m. l. Honington ch., with a pretty spire, was restored 1878. Honington Hall (F. Townsend.)

11m. SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR. (*Hotel, George. Pop. 1743. Distances: Moreton-in-the-Marsh, 8½m.; Brailes, 5m.; Stratford-on-Avon, 11m.; Chipping Norton, 12m.; Long Compton, 7½m.*) was once in a more flourishing condition than it now is, as is natural for a town which has been so long shut off from the world from lack of railway communication. It has, however, a good agricultural trade, and its sheep market is one of the largest in the kingdom. The church was restored in 1858 by the late *G. E. Street*. 1m. S.E. of Shipston is the village of Barcheston, the ch. of which (E.E.) contains an excellent example of priest's chamber (*domus inclusi*) attached to the tower. There is also a monument to the Willington family, and the antiquary will be interested in the black-letter copy of Erasmus' Paraphrase, which, however, is chained to the bench. From Shipston the road still pursues the valley of the Stour, which it crosses at 12½m., the little village of Tidmington, entering again into Warwickshire. Barmington ch. on the rt. bank of the river is E.E., and possesses a stone pulpit.

15m. At Little Wolford the road to Long Compton and Chipping Norton turns off l. Great Wolford ch. is Perp., and there are traces of a Saxon entrenchment close by. 2m. S. is Barton-on-the-Heath, the ch. of which has a good Norman chancel arch. Barton House (Major Bird) was built by Inigo Jones, and was formerly the residence of the Overbury family (p. 122). From Great Wolford it is nearly 3m. to the boundary of the county, marked by the Four Shire Stone at the point of junction of the counties of Warwick, Worcester, Oxford, and Gloucester. The last-named is now entered, and in about 1½m. the pedestrian enters

19½m. MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH. (*Stat. G.W.R.*)

Road Excursions.

XIX. SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TO BRAILES, LONG COMPTON AND CHIPPING NORTON.

From Shipston the Banbury road must be taken, leaving Barcheston on rt., and entering a very pic-

turesque bit of country, which in Camden's day was known as the "Feldon," in contradistinction to that of the woodland, or "Arden." The road ascends a considerable hill at 4m. Over Brailes, where on l. are traces of an encampment. One of the head waters of the Stour is crossed at 5m. Brailes, where the church (of mixed styles), is of remarkable interest, and was formerly called "the Cathedral of the Feldon." It is of Perp. and Dec. styles, consisting of nave with aisles and clerestory, chancel, S. porch and W. tower (Perp.) 120 ft. in height, of three stages, with embattled parapet and crocketed finials. The clerestory, with its carved cornice, gurgyle, and open work of the (Dec.) parapet is very noteworthy. The church is 165 ft. in length, the piers of the nave, which has six bays, resting on Norm. foundations. The clerestory has twelve windows, each being of two cinquefoiled lights with square heads. The E. window is of five lights, the Perp. W. window of four, both being of stained glass. The font is octagonal, carved with rich tracery, and there is an altar tomb to R. Davies (17th cent.)

1½m. N. is Winderton, where a pretty memorial ch. has been built by Canon Thoyts. It is E.E. in style, is apsidal, and has a rather elaborate arcaded porch. 1m. further N., in the direction of Edgehill, is the fine old mansion of Compton Winyate, a seat of the Marquis of Northampton, very snugly situated in one of the little Cotswold valleys—so snugly, indeed, that Camden speaks of it as Compton in the Hole. The mansion, an irregular old-fashioned building, in its palmy days contained eighty-one rooms, and was erected by Sir Wm. Compton, (whose monument is in the church) Master of the Ordnance, 1645, from the materials of the Castle of Fulbrook (p. 111). It is quadrangular, on the right of the court being the room where Henry VIII. slept when he visited Sir William, and on the l. the room in which Charles I. slept the night before Edgehill. It was celebrated for the ceiling of the large hall, which was painted to represent day and night. In this hall should be noticed the screen and minstrels' gallery, the quaint carvings and tapestry, "the whole house being a wilderness of queer rooms—a gigantic hiding-place, while the chimneys are a marvel. They are of brick, twisted, knotted, turned, fluted, billeted, capped, zigzag, and ornamented in every

conceivable form." Here was born Compton, Bishop of London, who held the see during the whole time that Sir C. Wren's work was going on at St. Paul's.

From Brailes, the road should be followed to Sutton, 2m., the church of which has an early Norm. (some say, Saxon,) doorway.

1m. further down the river is Cherrington ch., which has a rich canopied tomb, with effigy, supposed to be that of a squire or Franklin in the costume of the 14th cent., viz., a tunic, super-tunic, and a kind of tippet, or "cote and hood," such as is mentioned in Chaucer. 2m. S.E. of Cherrington is Whichford ch., E.E. and Perp., which has a S. transept, clerestory and a rather fine tower. 2m. S.W. of the latter village is the straggling village of Long Compton, very near the border of the county, which, in the time of Henry III., was of sufficient importance to have a weekly market and annual fair. The church, restored 1863, has an unusual feature in the vestry being on the S. side of the chancel.

The lower road from Long Compton to Chipping Norton crosses high ground into Oxfordshire at the second mile, passing the very singular group of upright stones called the Rollwright, Rollrich, or King's Stones, a circle 105 ft. in diameter, the centre planted with firs. About 300 ft. to N. is the King's Stone (in Warwickshire), and 1000 ft. to the S.E. are three upright and two prostrate stones called the Five Whispering Knights. Camden believes these remains to commemorate some great battle, but the probability is, that they are of Druidical origin. A local tradition says that a Danish prince came over to invade England, and when he landed at Dover he consulted a seer, whose oracular response was—

"When Long Compton you shall see,
You shall King of England be."

He arrived at this spot, and, on stepping forward in advance of his men, was immediately changed into the King's Stone, while the five knights, his immediate attendants, shared the same fate. The legend does not state, however, what became of the rest of the army. One of these stones was carried away by a sacrilegious wretch to make a stepping-stone over his brook, but he was so tormented by spirits, that he was obliged to bring it

back again. Geologically, they all consist of the Coral Rag from the Inferior Oolite rocks, and have evidently been brought from some distance. There is a wide and beautiful view from the hill, at the bottom of which is the village of Little Rollwright. From here it is 2½m. to

CHIPPING NORTON. (*Station G.W.R. Hotel, White Hart. Pop. 4167.*)

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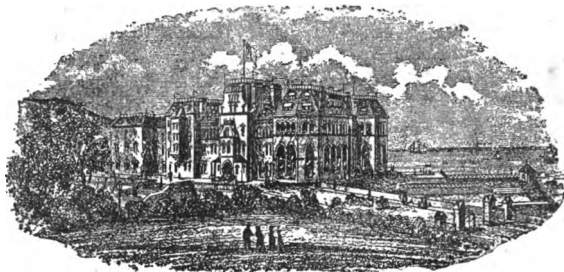
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